Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Construction Minister Replaced by Deputy

FL231247 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] The State Council has decided to replace Comrade Raul Cabrera Nunez as minister of construction. Comrade Homero Crabb Valdes, member of the PCC Central Committee, who had been first vice minister of construction, was named to take his place.

Soviet Presidium's Deputy Chairman Arrives

FL201548 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Vladimir Pavlovich Orlov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has arrived in Havana. He was invited to visit Cuba by the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. Orlov, who is also chairman of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] Supreme Soviet, was welcomed at the Jose Marti Airport by Flavio Bravo and Severo Aguirre del Cristo, president and vice president of the ANPP, respectively.

The Soviet leader, who is at the head of a permanent delegation to our country, will remain in Cuba until 29 November. He will cover an extensive schedule which includes visits to places of historic and economic interest. He will be honored with the Havana Distinguished Guest badge today. The prominent visitor will also tour Cienfuegos Province and will see the Juragua nuclear power plant under construction.

Meets With ANPP Official

FL210047 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Nov 87

[By Gisela Bel]

[Text] Comrade Vladimir Pavlovich Orlov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the RSFSR, held a highly-esteemed meeting today with leaders from Cuba's ANPP.

ANPP Vice President Severo Aguirre del Cristo briefed the visitor on the assembly's structure and operations and he stressed the importance of meeting with such a high-level representative of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The Soviet delegation's activities will include visits to Havana City, Cienfuegos, and the special municipality, Isle of Youth, as well as meetings with leaders from the Cuban party and Government.

Orlov arrived yesterday and was invited to Cuba by the ANPP. He was received by ANPP President Flavio Bravo Pardo. The Soviet official's visit will end on 29 November.

Castro Chats Briefly With UIS Delegates

FL191447 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro chatted briefly with delegates and guests attending the 15th Congress of the International Union of Students [UIS] at the Palace of Conventions last night. In the brief exchange, Fidel showed interest in the development of the congress and the subjects discussed. He said he will try to meet with the representatives of the students of the world for a longer period of time.

The forum will continue its sessions today with the analysis of topics related to the role of youth in the most pressing problems of humankind.

Cuba Reelected Vice President

FL202205 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1332 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] (Joseph Scala), president of the UIS, has expressed the need to join forces to fight imperialism, to take student solidarity to all parts of the world, and to emphasize the students' will to solve global problems. Speaking at the closing session of the 15th UIS Congress which lasted through the night, (Scala) thanked Cuba for the hospitality rendered during the 4 working days. The delegates will celebrate the Second Youth Friendship Festival with Isle of Youth foreign students today. They will exchange experiences with young students and Isle of Youth workers.

The 15th UIS Congress delegates approved a plan for amendments and additions to the organization's constitution presented by the committee reviewing this document. Cuba, represented by the Federation of University Students, was reelected as one of the vice presidents of the UIS during the final session when all the administrative organs were elected. For the first time, the mid-level students legally acquire participation and consultation status. An agreement was reached which broadens the definition of student to include all, not just university, students. The delegates approved the budget report of the outgoing finance committee for the next work period, as well as the 41 documents of the event.

Congress Ends

FL201921 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] (Joseph Halla) and (Giorgio Smichaelides) have been ratified as president and secretary general of the International Union of Students [UIS], respectively, at the end of the plenary closing session of that organization's 15th congress. The delegates approved the bill of amendments and additions to the UIS Constitution submitted by the document's review committee.

Middle school students will be able to serve as participants and advisers. Important matters of cooperation were also clarified and UIS objectives were adapted to the world's current situation.

The world students conference called "To Learn To Work Together for a Better World" will open this afternoon at 1800.

Castro Attends Railway Anniversary Ceremony

FL192214 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2121 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, is presiding over the main event marking the 150th anniversary of the Cuban railway system in Havana's Palace of Conventions.

The event coincides with the 17th Pan-American Railway Congress, which is attended by 200 Cuban specialists and approximately 500 foreigners. The congress has been productive in developing railroad systems throughout the world and in seeking greater support from governments in modernizing that economical transportation.

Up to the moment, 48 presentations have been made on the public benefits of a railway system, electric traction, international economic and technical cooperation, and other topics.

Soviet Firms Sign Agreement

FL190413 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] The 17th Pan-American Railway Congress continues meeting in Havana's Palace of Conventions with important trade results and a positive exchange of expertise.

A contract valued at 11 million rubles was signed today for the supply of four Soviet-made TGM8 locomotives—which will be received next year—spare parts, and technical maintenance equipment. The 5-year agreement was signed at the stand [previous word rendered in English] of the Firm (Sedmash) in the Exhibit Hall Pavilion, Pabexpo, where an industrial railway model with the latest advancements is on display.

(Aleksandr Shilin), general director of the Technical Assistance Center, (Sedmash), signed the document for the Soviet firm. Antonio Conejo, general director of the (Fecoimport) Enterprise signed on behalf of Cuba.

A 6-million-ruble contract is expected to be signed on Friday for the purchase in 1988 of 10 TEM2-TK locomotives which will reinforce our country's railway system.

Just prior to [words indistinct] (Sedmash) groups specializing in heavy equipment, granted a news conference as part of the activities marking the railway congress. During the meeting, the representatives of that Soviet firm gave detailed information on the equipment and parts manufactured by their enterprises. They also discussed the export programs that deal primarily in the railroad industry.

Special attention was given to this firm's trade relations and cooperation with our country in matters related to diesel locomotives, railroad cars, and flat-bed cars, as well as other equipment and operations involving assembly, adjustment, implementation of equipment, and training of technical personnel in that field.

Provinces Hold Assessment Meetings

FL231713 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Camaguey, Havana, Santiago de Cuba, Guantanamo,and Pinar del Rio held their PCC assessment meetings over the weekend. Lazaro Vasquez, Victorino Lemus, Esteban Lazo, Raul Michel Vargas, and Fidel Ramos were all confirmed as first party secretaries in their respective provinces. The general results of these meetings were an assessment of the progress of the rectification process and the pledge to face the difficulties that might curb socio-economic development in each province.

Barbados

Carl Clarke Appointed Minister of State

FL210343 Bridgetown CANA in English 2240 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Nov 20, CANA—Economist Dr Carl Clarke will assume office next Monday as the minister of state in the Barbados Ministry of Finance, completing the expanded 14-member cabinet announced on October 31 by Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford.

Announcing the cabinet reshuffle, Sandiford had disclosed creation of the new post, but he did not name the new minister. The Sunday *Sun* newspaper subsequently identified Clarke as the appointee.

Dr Clarke, a 54-year-old professional with no known political background, will make his entry to the Cabinet through a Senate appointment, filling a vacancy on the government side.

A government statement on Friday said he will take the oaths of office as a senator and minister before the governor-general next Monday.

Dominican Republic

Columnist Proposes Invasion of Haiti

PA231228 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0542 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Santo Domingo, 22 Nov (EFE)—In an article published today, Dominican newspaper *El Nacional* proposed a number of measures against the Haitian Government "and if, despite these measures, the enemies from the other side insist on attacking us, let us invade Haiti."

Newsman Alvaro Arvelo, Jr, added in the column entitled "Capsules:" "We must occupy it militarily, install a government controlled from Santo Domingo, and proceed to reorganize that nation so its people will have the liberty they deserve."

He added that "to guarantee this process and avoid the imposition of another dictatorship on the Haitian people, we must maintain a Dominican junta in Haiti for 22 years. [as received] The junta would provide consultations to Haiti and would be comprised of 5 generals and 5 intellectuals."

The columnist said the Dominican Government must disregard any protests from the "illegal, de facto, repressive, puppet, and tyrranical regime that is misgoverning the Haitian people."

Haiti

Violence Prior to Elections Continues

MIDH Headquarters Attacked

FL232137 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] We could say that the week has begun violently. There were several acts of violence over the weekend: the fire at Marche Salomon [marketplace] early this morning, among others, which has completely destroyed the marketplace; the arson attempt at the Departmental Electoral Office for the Department of the West, which was also fired upon last night; and the attack on a group of squatters at the former site of the (Watson) lottery, during which five people were wounded.

There were barricades in several parts of town this morning. Others were set up during the morning but there were not enough of them to block traffic.

Vehicles parked on the Grande Rue in the Portail Leogane area had their windows smashed last night. Shortly before noon [23 November], other cars were stoned, in the Turgeau and Lalue sections of Port-au-Prince, where a group of men—some armed with fireguns and others with clubs and rocks—sowed panic. They were yelling: "Long live the Army. Down with the CEP." [Provisional Electoral Council]

The headquarters of the Movement for the Implementation of Democracy in Haiti [MIDH] was visited by these individuals. MIDH Vice President Francois Benoit gives us details of the attack on his party in a telephone call to Radio Metropole.

[Begin recording] [Benoit] What happened this morning is that a group of men, which I estimate at some 50 persons, passed in front of the MIDH headquarters. The first thing they did was to shoot at the office. They shot at the windows of all cars parked in front and smashed them. This was a first attack. Then they went and gathered behind the school located in front of MIDH headquarters.

They passed a second time, in a group. This time, they again threw rocks and smashed all the car windows that had not been smashed the first time.

Right now, as I talk to you, they are regrouping down by Sacre Coeur [church, down the street]. It seems that they are seeking to hit and run and hit and run in order to keep things tense.

We are trying to call the barracks and the police so they can give us some support—so they can give the MIDH offices the protection they need.

[Reporter] You have no wounded?

[Benoit] No, there are no wounded at the present time.

[Reporter] Are there any other incidents going on in your area besides what is going on at the MIDH office?

[Benoit] Not that I know of. I don't see anything else happening. They seem to be clearly attacking the MIDH. They are not attacking anything or anyone else.

[Reporter] So, they didn't smash cars in the area? Because a listener said they were attacking (?passing) cars.

[Benoit] I don't know exactly how far up the street they went. All I could see was the area in front of the MIDH offices and that is where I saw the incidents I am reporting.

[Reporter] Can you tell us how many shots they fired at the MIDH offices?

[Benoit] Personally, I saw a man with a 38-caliber revolver in his hand but he was not at that time shooting at the office. But I saw him fire into the air. I myself heard some seven or eight (?shots).

[Reporter] Have you received any threats these last few days?

[Benoit] Not to my knowledge.

[Reporter] Do you think what happened this morning is connected to last night's incidents?

[Benoit] It is very possible that this is a continuation of the terror they wish to establish in the country and part of the process of intimidation aimed at preventing the people from voting in general and, especially, to prevent them from voting for Marc Bazin.

[Reporter] Would you personally like to make an appeal to the government authorities or to partisans of the MIDH?

[Benoit] I would like to address the authorities in charge of the country and ask them to support us and give us some protection and especially, above all, to give the electoral process the necessary protection so that the peoples' will can materialize.

[Reporter] Could you remind Radio Metropole listeners who you are and what your position in the MIDH is?

[Benoit] My name is Francois Benoit and I am the vice president of the MIDH.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr Benoit.

[Benoit] Thank you. [end recording]

The individuals of whom Mr Benoit spoke were continuing to operate shortly after 1100 sowing panic in the Lalue area. We have been informed that the police have intervened at the lower end of Lalue [also known as Rue Panamericaine, the main road leading from downtown Port-au-Prince to Petion-Ville]. The police have reportedly made some arrests in that area. Port-au-Prince schools operated with a reduced number of students. Some of them sent their students home after the panic in downtown Port-au-Prince this morning. The streets emptied. Stores kept their doors shut and the street vendors who sell off the sidewalks did not open their stands.

Arson at Radio Attempted

FL231532 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpts] There was an attempt to set fire to Radio Independence in Gonaives yesterday morning, but the fire did not have time to spread. The fire started near two electric poles very close to the studio. The material used to start the fire was found. We talked to a member of Radio Independence's staff. Let's listen:

[Begin recording] [Speaker] Three [as heard] poles caught fire and they are all blackened. This happened last night. We noticed a bottle on the ground, and a bag of gelatin. Apparently they started a fire in the bag of gelatin, to put it on the poles. The poles are all blackened, but thank goodness they did not have time to catch on fire, because the neighbors heard noise and made a fuss, and the arsonist fled. [passage omitted] The transmitter is inside the station. They probably wanted to burn down the entire station, because the transmitter is in it. [passage omitted]. It rained yesterday, and maybe that kept the fire from catching, so the station didn't burn down.

[Reporter] Were there any witnesses?

[Speaker] No. The neighbors heard noise and started yelling, and the arsonist fled. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Radio Lumiere Set Fire

FL231436 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No 33.136, 21-22 Nov 87 pp 1,12

[Text] Radio Lumiere's broadcast tower, located at Menelas in the Plains of Cul-de-Sac, was attacked Friday night, 20 November 1987, by a group of arsonists.

According to the watchman, six armed and masked individuals burst into the building at the transmitter site sometime between midnight and 0100. They forced open the lock on the door to the room housing the two transmitters serving the metropolitan area. They tried to find the watchman, who was miraculously saved by the color of his clothing, which blended into the darkness. Under orders from their leader, after having inspected the premises, the bandits fired a flame-thrower into the room and fled. All the material and equipment was burned to a crisp, and the building suffered heavy damage.

According to Radio Lumiere's administrator, the damages are estimated at more than $100,000. Mr Robinson Joseph could not tell us when Radio Lumiere will be able to resume transmission on 680 KHz AM, especially since the station, which operates mainly on donations, is currently facing serious financial problems.

Radio Lumiere was started on 20 February 1959 by Pastor David Hartt within the framework of the program of the "West Indies Mission" in Haiti. This foreign mission later became the U.S.-based World Team, principal partner of the MEBSH (Evangelical Baptist Mission of Southern Haiti), to which Radio Lumiere belongs.

The evangelical radio station is well-known in Haiti for its contribution to the struggle for democracy that led to 7 February 1986. It was, in fact, one of the three radio stations shut down by the Jean-Claude Duvalier government on 31 January 1986, when his regime was on the wane.

This radio station, whose newscasts are much listened to in the hinterland, has been receiving threats for some time now. Its six broadcasting units based in Les Cayes,

Dame Marie, Carrefour Paye, Hinche, Pignon, and Port-au-Prince, allow the station to cover all of Haiti. *Le Nouvelliste* presents its sympathies to the administration and staff of Radio Lumiere on the occasion of this deplorable incident.

CEP Headquarters Fired Upon

FL231501 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] A group of armed individuals apparently fired several rounds of gunfire last night at the Departmental Electoral Office for the Department of the West on Delmas Road, the new headquarters of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP].

According to initial reports, the men also doused the place with gasoline to set it on fire, but the fire did not catch.

Burning Barricades Constructed

FL231413 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 1100 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Many people near the Grand Rue, especially between Portail Leogane and Rue Champ de Mars, woke up this morning to find the street filled with burning barricades made of tires, trash, chairs [words indistinct], and so forth.

People have also informed us that the fires are beginning to go out in many places, on several corners. All along the right side of the Grande Rue, all the way from Portail Leogane, the windows on all the vehicles—windshields, back windshields, and side windows—have been smashed.

Also, there was a big fire at Marche Salomon [marketplace in southwest Port-au-Prince] last night. Our reporter is on the scene and will inform us later. But some listeners who were there called and said it looks as if the marketplace is totally destroyed, together with everything in it.

Anti-CEP Slogans Appear

FL240146 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpts] A group of armed persons tried to set fire last night to the new headquarters of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] located at the Departmental Electoral Office on Delmas Road. [passage omitted]

The same commando fired numerous bullets at a nearby electrical transformer.

The slogan "Long live the Army, down with the CEP," was written on the walls of a number of streets in the capital.

Vehicles Stoned on Airport Road

FL232246 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpt] On the airport road this morning, many public transportation vehicles taking people to work ran into trouble and had to turn around and go back from where they had come. One of them was even set on fire.

Meanwhile, there was shooting by men in civilian clothing. Witnesses, who were nevertheless reluctant to speak for fear of reprisals, said they noticed that the people setting the fires were doing so unhindered, not as when flaming barricades were set up in the streets last summer and the people erecting them were being shot. This time, the people setting up barricades are people who can do things unhindered as if it were nothing at all.

These people threw rocks and set up barricades of tires and all the workers had to turn back. This was on the airport road. There were some people hurt. Many people were hurt while in the public transportation vehicles, which were stoned. [passage omitted].

Costa Rica

Uruguay's Sanguinetti Arrives for Visit

PA231416 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1330 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti arrived in the country at 1700 yesterday for a 23-hour visit as part of a quick tour of area nations. He is accompanied by Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias and other ranking officials of his government. Sanguinetti is en route to Mexico, where he will participate in the Group of Eight meeting. During his visit to Costa Rica he will meet with President Oscar Arias, Legislative Assembly President Fernando Volio Jimenez, and the National Reconciliation Commission.

Last night Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez and Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti met at the Presidential Palace to analyze the Central American situation. Uruguay is a member of the Support Group and has shown interest in the regional peace process for a long time. For this reason the Uruguayan president—before attending the Group of Eight meeting—wishes to obtain first-hand information on what is taking place in Central America.

Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto said Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti's voice will be heard at the Acapulco meeting because he will have first-hand information on the Central American situation. Although the foreign debt will be the main topic of the Group of Eight meeting, the Central American situation and the peace process will be given priority. Madrigal Nieto believes there are many points of agreement between Uruguay and Costa Rica, which have been consolidated by the visit by Sanguinetti and Foreign Minister Enrique Iglesias.

Upon arriving in our country President Sanguinetti praised the peaceful and democratic tradition of the Costa Rican people. During a brief message to the Costa Rican people at the Juan Santamaria Airport Sanguinetti said he is immensely satisfied about starting a tour of all Central American countries in this land of peace and liberty. Sanguinetti praised President Oscar Arias for his peace-seeking efforts.

El Salvador

Duarte Links D'Aubuisson to Romero Murder

PA240244 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0020 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] Salvadoran legal authorities must decide whether or not to issue an arrest warrant for Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, and former presidential candidate in the last elections, after a witness accused him of involvement in the murder of Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, said President Duarte.

Archbishop Romero, a declared opponent of the former military regimes and defender of human rights, was shot to death on 24 March 1980 as he was officiating mass in the San Salvador Cancer Hospital chapel.

At a news conference held this afternoon at the Ilopango military base, President Napoleon Duarte read the deposition of a witness to the crime accusing D'Aubuisson of being the mastermind and Captain Alvaro Saravia the organizer of the assassination plan. Federico Antonio Garay Reyes fled to the United States after witnessing the crime and was detected there by the Special Investigations Unit, to which he made a deposition on 19 November 1987. Garay, who worked as a driver for Capt Alvaro Saravia, told the Special Investigations Unit and later the 4th Criminal Judge that after the crime the officer went to D'Aubuisson's home and told him: We did what we had planned; we killed Msgr Romero. No, man, you should not have done it yet, replied D'Aubuisson. Saravia then said: We did it because you ordered it.

However, according to the same witness, Saravia did not directly participate in the murder. The gunman was a bearded youth, who has not yet been identified, who on 24 March fired at Msgr Romero at close range. On that date Saravia called on his driver to take him in his car to a house in the exclusive San Benito suburb. Saravia got out there and told his driver to drive another car in which a bearded man was already sitting, according to the deposition. This individual told the driver to take him to the Miramonte suburb and, once there, told him to park the car outside the hospital chapel and to make it look like he was repairing the car. Garay Reyes obeyed, and while he was fiddling with the transmission he heard gunfire. A short time later the individual returned to the car carrying a rifle and he heard shouts coming from inside the chapel.

The murderer asked him to resume driving, and they returned to the home where Capt Saravia was waiting. They took a roundabout route because he had apparently lost his way. The killer told the captain: mission accomplised. Saravia asked his driver why he had taken so long. To this he replied: I got lost.

Capt Saravia did not sleep at home that night, and the next day he went with his driver to a home across the street from Channel 2 Television in northern San Salvador, where Maj D'Aubuisson was waiting for them. Saravia informed D'Aubuisson of the operation, and the latter replied that it had been carried out too soon. Apparently this is the end of the witness' deposition.

According to President Duarte the driver did not immediately report the crime because too many important people were involved, but he began to fear for his life and, 2 months later, he quit his job and left for the United States. Duarte said that now it is up to the judges to determine the facts and to decide whether they issue arrest warrants for D'Aubuisson and Saravia. D'Aubuisson is the Legislative Assembly deputy for ARENA and

lives in San Salvador. Saravia lives in the United States. In the latter case, Duarte said he is prepared to ask for extradition proceedings. He added that he feared that this revelation made by the government could hurt many other people who may end up paying with their lives.

Romero's murder deeply touched the Salvadoran people 7 years ago, and, from the beginning, the government and others attributed the crime to paramilitary gangs. Romero was ordained bishop of San Salvador in 1978 and during his tenure he distinguished himself by defending the poor and human rights and constantly reported the outrages committed by the Army and the government.

The amnesty decreed by Duarte in compliance with Esquipulas II does not cover Romero's murderers nor the murderer of human rights activist Herbert Anaya Sanabria, killed on 26 October 1987.

Acevedo Presents Esquipulas Verification Plan

PA231721 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta has revealed a draft regulation proposal to verify compliance with the Esquipulas II agreements. He said the government will present this proposal to verify compliance on 3 December during the fourth meeting of the regional foreign ministers executive commission.

Acevedo said he has already formally invited the foreign ministers of Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua to attend the fourth foreign ministers meeting, which will take place at the Salvadoran permanent mission headquarters in New York.

The foreign ministers executive commission will draft motions and specific procedures to be followed by the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission during its on-site verification duties. This commission, which was established by the foreign ministers of the Contadora and Support Groups and the UN and OAS secretaries general, will meet on 4 December in New York, 1 day after the meeting of the Central American foreign ministers.

According to the Esquipulas II agreements, which came into effect simultaneously in the region on 5 November, the commission is tasked with verifying and assessing compliance with the Esquipulas agreements in each area country, especially regarding amnesty, cease-fire, and democratization.

Acevedo announced the draft regulations proposal to be presented by El Salvador during a ceremony to receive a donation from the Italian Government valued at $1.7 million consisting of 20 highly sophisticated excavators and 2 crates of spare parts for reconstruction equipment in San Salvador.

As for the verification of agreements contained in the regional peace plan, the Salvadoran proposal calls for the establishment of two subcommittees of the commission tasked with verifying security aspects and another to deal with political issues. The Salvadoran proposal also states that each subcommittee would be made up of one Central American representative and one representative each from the Contadora Group, the Support Group, the OAS, and the United Nations. The selection of representatives would be made by the foreign ministers executive commission from slates presented by groups belonging to the Verification Commission. Acevedo said: Only in this way will we strictly implement the verification of the Esquipulas agreements.

The Esquipulas II executive commission is made up of Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera, Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto, Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto, and Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta.

Honduras

Foreign Minister on Esquipulas, Maneuvers

PA231616 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1545 GMT 19 Nov 87

[News conference held by Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras with local reporters on 19 November; place not given—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Lopez] ...the Honduran Government at the OAS General Assembly last week Thursday. Actually, what you have said is not very accurate. Honduras has been proposing safeguarding the security interests of Honduras and then to make a contribution to the resolution of the internal problems of the region's countries. In that regard its contribution would basically be to search for the mechanisms that can prevent the use of Honduran territory by foreign armed rebel groups at the borders with El Salvador and Nicaragua.

[Reporter Wilfredo Garcia] Have Nicaragua or the United States responded to the proposals—made by the Honduran Government through you at the OAS General Assembly—to create an international commission and to host a possible meeting between Washington and Managua?

[Lopez] I have here a telex from Washington that contains a text of statements made by President Ortega when answering a question regarding Honduras' proposal. In his reply, Ortega said: Nicaragua believes the proposal is constructive. We will study it. We believe it is within the framework of the Guatemala agreements. We will make contact with Honduras to talk about this proposal, which logically includes the disarmament of the contras, the dismantling of contra camps in Honduras, in exchange for actions from Nicaragua. We will mention some, such as not mining the border zone,

stopping the incursion of Sandinist troops in Honduras, and the withdrawing foreign military advisers from Nicaragua. Honduras would also withdraw U.S. troops. We believe the Honduran proposal contributes to the implementation of the Guatemala agreements and to the cease-fire. That is the response, at least a preliminary and public one, that the Nicaraguan Government has made through President Ortega in Washington.

[Reporter] Foreign Minister, is the proposal to withdraw the contras from Honduras, for example, and from Nicaragua as well, just part of a reciprocity agreement? That is, if Honduras withdraws the contras, must they then withdraw their advisers?

[Lopez] Look, what we are trying to do is prevent the use of our territory. We refuse to allow the use of Honduran facilities or installations within Honduran territory. We are trying to prevent the use of Honduran territory because we believe that Honduras, located in the middle of Central America, is a victim of the violence prevailing in the other countries, and we would like to make a contribution in the sense that our territory should not be used by either armed Salvadoran or Nicaraguan groups. In that regard we have made a formal proposal, which the Nicaraguan Government is currently studying, and it is possible that we may reach an agreement and obtain successful results.

[Garcia] President Ortega said in a news conference yesterday that Danilo Abud Vivas, Nicaraguan ambassador in Tegucigalpa, has received instructions to try to initiate the talks over the proposals that Honduras made last Thursday at the OAS. Has there been any reply on that, and what can you say about it?

[Lopez] Yes, I am aware that there have been statements made in that regard. President Ortega tried to make contact with me in Washington, but unfortunately we could not meet because I had already left for Miami on Friday night. Therefore, we did not have the opportunity to talk about this matter beforehand. We are alert, however, to any initiative they may have. We have already presented a proposal and we are willing to discuss it.

[Garcia] There is another aspect we would like to know more about. There are two basic issues in the Central American crisis: the contras and the military maneuvers. This week Honduran newspapers reported on the possibility of relocating the contras when the International Verification Commission arrives. The Caribbean and other places have been mentioned as destinations. In addition, yesterday Nicaragua accused Honduras of making a peace proposal while simultaneously carrying out military maneuvers with the United States. Yesterday, however, Nicaragua also announced the staging of military maneuvers near the Honduran border. What is the view of the Honduran Government regarding Nicaragua's accusation and the staging of military maneuvers near the Honduran border?

[Lopez] One must be aware of the arrangements or commitments assumed by the countries in the framework of the Esquipulas II agreements. Unfortunately, and I must stress the word unfortunately, the security aspects regarding the maximum levels of armament—which included the regulation of military maneuvers—were not accounted for in the Esquipulas II agreements. They are open to negotiation, however, and Honduras has been the country that has insisted the most during the Contadora talks, the meetings of the executive commission, and during the meetings of the International Verification Commission that it is advisable for the governments to meet and negotiate to reach agreements in matters of maximum levels of armaments and military troops and of military maneuvers. In this regard Honduras has not participated in any violation because this is a point, an issue that has not been accounted for, and precisely because it has not been accounted for Honduras has recently made this proposal at the OAS.

[Reporter] What is your opinion regarding the Sandinists' military maneuvers near the Honduran border?

[Lopez] I do not believe it contributes to the peace efforts. The truth is that it was one of the points we specifically requested be discussed. The presence and the energy generated by an oversized army create tensions, let alone when this army is deployed to a border zone. I have always said that if a democracy is highly armed it at least creates doubts and concerns. This is even more so when the regime is known to be authoritarian.

[Reporter] Foreign Minister, I will insist on asking about a matter that apparently has been forgotten, but which is related to the Central American conflict. It is basically about the F-5 planes, which reportedly were to arrive in Central America and specifically in Honduras. Have you been questioned about this on the international level?

[Lopez] No, not at all. The Nicaraguan Government, which might supposedly be sensitive on this point... [changes thought] these units will provide some type of compensation in the military balance. I say some compensation because it does not bring us into equilibrium with the different forces of each country. The problem, the idea we have held throughout the negotiations is the reestablishment of some type of regional military balance that can prevent a government from feeling it can attack another country because it can obtain an easy victory. In Central America we know about this through experience and we believe it has been beneficial for Central America governments to have had the military capacity to discourage military actions. When any such actions have taken place there have been no major consequences, precisely because of the existence of a regional military balance.

[Reporter] I will insist on [asking again] my initial question regarding the joint Honduran-U.S. military maneuvers: Will these maneuvers continue?

[Lopez] Currently there is no prohibition against them. Honduras has made no commitment to suspend the maneuvers. The maneuvers are simply a means of training for our Armed Forces in cooperation with a friendly government and army. Besides, the maneuvers are also a means for carrying out projects that will benefit local communities, such as the construction of roads. They should not be considered a threat to any neighboring country. Therefore, any concern that may be expressed is not in tune with reality.

[Reporter] Foreign Minister, what can you tell us about the Central American foreign ministers meeting in New York in the first few days of December?

[Lopez] The purpose of the meeting is to continue the talks at the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission level and if possible to reach agreements regarding the mechanisms that may be implemented in matters of verification. Now this is related to another problem. The problem is that regardless of what was stated in the communique released in Washington two Saturdays ago, which up to a certain point gives an optimistic outlook on the progress made by the peace process, the terminology used stated: the progress made in compliance with the agreements signed by each country up until 5 November. Now, that same diplomatic terminology clearly states one thing: the commission found out in Washington on 7 November that the five basic agreements stipulated in clause No 11 of the Esquipulas II accords did not go into effect publicly or simultaneously as the five Central American presidents had agreed. Therefore, we are studying—and that is one of the orders given to the preliminary technical commission that came here and presented a report, which we learned about in Washington... [changes thought] an order was given so that a statement regarding the principle of simultaneity and verification could be made. On 7 August the original intention of the presidents was that the five agreements—some of which would be implemented right away while others would be implemented just before 5 November because of their complexity—would all go into effect simultaneously. The simultaneous implementation of the agreements would then lead to their simultaneous verification. However, this did not happen, so we have requested the preliminary technical commission to make a statement and inform the International Verification Commission at the meeting scheduled to be held in New York on 5 December, in which we hope to learn of their recommendations regarding this point.

[Reporter] The Honduran Government has established, through the commission, that the five main points of the peace agreement have not been complied with. What is the Honduran Government's evaluation of the peace process and of its implementation by each country so far?

[Lopez] You asked for an evaluation. We have noticed some progress, but progress toward normalization in the region does not necessarily mean compliance with the Guatemala agreement. That is why the president of Honduras, believing that there has not been full compliance and that some governments have set conditions for complying with their commitments, has considered the possibility of having a meeting of presidents to reevaluate the situation and, if necessary, to make adjustments. This position is still open because of the situation that exists: The five fundamental commitments are not being implemented simultaneously and this upsets the delicate equilibrium that the presidents secured on 15 August [date as heard] in Guatemala.

[Pineiro] Antonio Pineiro, of *La Tribuna*. In the opinion of the mayor of New York City, who recently visited the region, the deliberately ambiguous phrasing of the Arias peace plan does not obligate any government to comply with any commitment. He cites, for example, the phrasing of the cease-fire and the amnesty provisions, which are open to various interpretations, depending on the interests of each government of each country.

[Lopez] I insist that in political negotiations based on diplomacy, language always has a diplomatic coating, and in this sense it is not very clear. However, the presidents and the governments know very well the meaning of each word, each paragraph, and each commitment. Therefore, language is not so important when everybody knows the scope of each commitment. We clearly realize that not all the commitments have been fulfilled completely. I am not going to point to any country because this is not of interest right now. The mayor of New York City is partially right, but the important matter is to try to make the Esquipulas agreement a complete success.

[Reporter] Do you believe that President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz want peace for Central America?

[Lopez] I believe so. I think the starting point of all democratic countries—and Honduras is a democratic country—is to trust in the [6-second break reception] Honduras and for the United States [45-second break in reception] at the ICJ. The other trial is on. Ad hoc judges have been sworn in already: (Banticot), for El Salvador, and (Pinali), for Honduras. The chamber was formally installed on 1 June of this year. The two new ad hoc judges that were appointed by the two countries were sworn in last week in The Hague during a solemn ceremony. The two states will present documents on 1 June. We estimate that the trial will last a maximum of 2 years after that date. This means that we expect the trial to conclude 2 years and 6 months from now.

[Moderator] Orbelina Lopez, of *La Prensa*.

[O. Lopez] Doctor, at this moment there is practically a confrontation between the Catholic Church and the Armed Forces. According to statements by the bishop of the Copan diocese a suit will be filed against the military over the persecution of a priest. The bishop has tried to

speak with the military leadership and with U.S. Embassy officials, but apparently there has been no response. What do you think about this at a moment when we are talking about a reconciliation commission?

[Lopez] I have utmost respect for Honduras' ecclesiastic authorities and also for the Armed Forces. I believe that both are a source of national pride. They represent perhaps the most noble and permanent Honduran traditions. Because of this, differences or incidents that may arise at various levels should not necessarily be viewed as a confrontation between the Honduran church and the Honduran Armed Forces. This is not the case. Absolutely not. I can tell you this because I know this. I have talked with the top authorities of both institutions, and they have told me that there is no such confrontation, that there is communications between them, and that the incidents that sometimes arise are resolved via a dialogue, which is the means they use.

Dialogue is not always public but it is still a dialogue and it is still effective, for the benefit of Honduras.

[O. Lopez] Yes, but this matter has come up regarding the situation of Msgr Santos. He has publicly spoken, given testimony, about what happened in Copan. How do you interpret this when there are dialogue channels?

[Lopez] I cannot state my opinion on that. That is a matter that belongs to another sphere of responsibilities, not mine. However, I will insist that the top authorities of both institutions are serenely viewing and handling small incidents that arise.

[Reporter] How should we interpret the fact that the United States says that the presence of military troops in Honduras is justified and that it has been announced that next year there will be military maneuvers in our country? How can the Honduran Government interpret this in the framework of the Central American peace plan? Do these maneuvers really contribute to the peace process?

[Lopez] I have already answered that question, but I will answer it again with pleasure. Military maneuvers are aimed at strengthening Honduran security. Honduras, like other countries, has security interests. Since we have not engaged in an arms race, one of the means we have arranged to somehow compensate for the lack of military equality that has emerged in Central America in recent years is to give troops a high degree of training. We can do that with the cooperation of the U.S. Government. The United States also has security interests in Central America and has expressed its interest in carrying out military maneuvers in Honduras. This is not prohibited by Esquipulas II. It is not prohibited because the subjects of security, military development, troops, and arms have not been the object of any agreement. There are plans in that regard, and we are urging—I did so at the OAS—that we should get together as soon as possible to establish limits to the maximum level of military development that can be reached and to establish regulations on international military maneuvers.

Nicaragua

Ortega Welcomes Uruguay's Sanguinetti

PA231500 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0337 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega welcoming Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti to Nicaragua; place not given—live]

[Text] On behalf of the Nicaraguan people, who conquered freedom on 19 July 1979, welcome. Welcome on behalf of this heroic people who have defended and continue to defend with their lives the liberty that a foreign aggressor wants to quench once again.

Latin America and the Caribbean once again show that independence, liberty, justice, democracy, and peace can be reached and defended only with the firmness and unity of the people.

In spite of acts of force and military occupations such as that of Grenada, new democratic openings are appearing by different methods in South and Central America because that is the will of the people. We are struggling for true changes that will guarantee stability and security for all the nations, regardless of how small their population and their territory are.

Bolivar's cry is again heard in the voices of our people. Agreement and unity in action by the republics of the continent and the Caribbean are more than a vital necessity for the future of big and small nations alike.

The Contadora and Support Groups have been able to interpret this moment properly. Now or never we will firmly establish new types of political, economic, and social relations.

The eight Latin American presidents, including you, will be meeting in Mexico to discuss subjects that are very much linked to peace and integral democracy, the implementation of the Guatemala agreements the presidents of Central America signed on 7 August, respect for international law, the foreign debt problem, and unjust foreign trade.

These subjects will be discussed by people who are convinced that as long as there is no true solution to these problems the risks of democratic opening being closed will increase, and this in turn will result in increased social and political tension throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

We hope that in the same way we are increasingly becoming aware of the necessity to dismantle the atomic arsenal, people will also become aware of the necessity

and urgency to dismantle the other arsenal, the one which deprives millions of people from the so-called Third World—most of whom belong to the Nonaligned Movement—of their lives, jobs, and futures.

The Central American countries, which are firmly working to implement the Esquipulas II agreement, hope that our efforts will be supported by a cancelation of the debt we have with governments, multilateral organizations, and private banks. We also hope that beginning at that moment new cooperative relations that would form the basis of an authentic development of our economy will be established within the framework of justice and equity.

Dear President Sanguinetti, in welcoming you to Nicaragua I cannot fail to recall the expressions of love and solidarity of the Uruguayan people for the Nicaraguan people. The Nicaraguan people are thankful for these expressions of love and solidarity.

In 1985, in Montevideo, the people chanted: Artigas and Sandino showed us the way. We can affirm today that they did show us the way to independence, self-determination, sovereignty, justice, liberty, democracy, and peace. We are prepared to conquer that.

Cheers, dear President Sanguinetti, for the friendship of our people, for Bolivar, Artigas, and Sandino, for peace. Please accept this expression of love from the Nicaraguan people.

Holds Joint News Conference

PA232344 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1921 GMT 23 Nov 87

[News conference held by Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti and President Daniel Ortega with reporters at the Presidency's Information Directorate in Managua—live]

[Text] [Sanguinetti] As you all know we have come to this country on a tour, a peace crusade of Central America to include all countries in the region as an initial step toward the meeting to be held in Acapulco and at which the eight presidents will be present. I wish to point out that we have come here with curiosity and humility to talk with all the governments and all the opposition groups in this region, to listen to information and to exchange views, to identify solutions, and to try to determine what progress has been made in this process that began when the Esquipulas agreement was signed in Guatemala City.

Here in Nicaragua we have had the opportunity to talk very clearly and frankly with government officials. We have had the opportunity to meet with the National Reconciliation Commission. We met with the political parties, and we even met with the management of the newspaper *La Prensa*. We are particularly interested in [words indistinct] because we can say that we have had the opportunity to talk with all sectors of the nation, not only with the government, but with all those involved in the country's political process.

It is, of course, a brief visit, but we are pleased to say that we have heard all sides. We do not feel we are at the end of a road, but at the beginning of one, that we are on a road. No one can say that this country has achieved all the stages aspired to by all factions representing one view or another. However, neither can anyone deny that progress has been made—of unquestionable significance—and that true prospects for peace now exist.

In light of this fact one can assume two attitudes: that of taking a view from the sidewalk across the street and demanding perfection and even a fight; or to make [words indistinct] to seriously demand the fulfillment of what has been agreed upon, and to try to help in good faith so that the conditions can be fulfilled harmoniously—acknowledging that it is very difficult, acknowledging that one will not have all war, all the peace, or all the democracy [words indistinct] and realizing that to achieve peace one must take steps toward it, to achieve democracy one must take steps toward it, and that what really matters is to take a path that fulfills the objectives conceived and defined in the historic Guatemala agreement.

That is the reason we have been talking here. Now we will leave for El Salvador where we will continue with another chapter—unquestionably also important—of this dialogue. I am at your disposal for whatever questions you may have. Please give your name and the media that you represent.

[Alvarez] I take this opportunity to greet a representative of the homeland of Artigas and (Ordonez), pride of Latin American democracy.

[Sanguinetti] Please give your name and the media that you represent.

[Alvarez] Eligio Alvarez from Radio Sandino.

[Sanguinetti] Go ahead, ask your question.

[Alvarez] How will this meeting of Latin American presidents in Acapulco contribute to what is being called Latin American political and economic security and unity, not only in the sense of resolving political problems, but problems that include the [words indistinct] and other problems of regional economic integration promoted by [words indistinct] the Cartagena Group, and other movements promoted in your country—such as ALADI. The question is, to what extent will this meeting, being held for the first time on our soil, contribute to what we call the unity and integration promoted by Bolivar and (Marti)?

[Sanguinetti] The first contribution is that the meeting itself will be held. The sole fact that eight Latin American presidents meet on their own initiative and not as a result of an institutional mechanism or a convocation of another nature is a political achievement. It is the first time that this has happened in Latin America without the presence of any of the large powers. Consequently, this is part of a chapter in the process of integration.

Naturally, Latin American integration is not an undertaking that can be carried out instantly. It is a network of relations we have been weaving recently. This is the reason for the Group of Eight. It does not aim to replace the organizations that promote this integration. It does not aim to compete with this integration or to attack it. It seeks to be a dynamic instrument to speed up this integration.

I feel that just the mere fact the meeting is being held is a step foward. Based on this meeting the group will become a mechanism for consultation and agreement. We will meet to consult with one another, exchange views, and coordinate our progress on all those issues.

[Fuentes] A question for President Ortega.

[Moderator] Excuse me, we asked reporters to give their names.

[Fuentes] Douglas Fuentes of UPI.

[Ortega] The questions now are for President Sanguinetti only. We will have time later on.

[Fuentes] What is the outlook that an economic assistance plan for Central America will be approved at the Acapulco meeting?

[Sanguinetti] I do not think a plan of this type will be approved because sufficient studies have not been made. However, I think the political desire could be found to begin studying this possibility, but, naturally, one would need a more thorough study of the possibilities, needs, and characteristics of this kind of plan.

[Rioseco] Pedro Rioseco of *Prensa Latina*. Taking into account your previous tour of Central America and Uruguay's appointment as secretary of the Group of Eight, what role do you think this group can play to promote and support the fulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreements in Central America?

[Sanguinetti] It seems to me there is a role to be played there. It is the role that has been played, up to now, by the Contadora Group and, linked to the debt problem, the Cartagena Group. Their role has been basically to create a favorable climate, a favorable political climate, for the development of these agreements. All international agreements require good faith, and this good faith calls for overcoming the mutual prejudice, suspicion, and mistrust that are the natural results of a long history of disagreements.

Therefore, this means this effort needs people who will support it and will contribute to this climate of good faith and mutual understanding.

We all know that when these situations arise passions run high on both sides, and any constructive position is sometimes presented as a step back, a weak position, or an unusual concession. I believe that, in this sense, our group can decisively contribute toward that climate of understanding just as it has done during all this time when the group was several times said to be dead and buried. It was said the group had nothing to do anymore. However, it always raised some hope and opened a political path. It tried to achieve what has been achieved. We always said the topic of peace in Central America was a matter that concerned the Central American countries. Fortunately, this is increasingly so.

[Zelaya] Mario Zelaya of the Voice of Nicaragua. President Sanguinetti, last night you expressed confidence about and wished for peace in Central America. Nicaragua is making efforts to achieve peace in this country. However, the Reagan administration insists on waging war against us and financing the mercenaries. We want to know your opinion about this situation.

[Sanguinetti] We condemn the intervention the United States is carrying out by supporting a belligerent force in a Latin American country. We condemn the United States just as we would condemn any other power that would do the same. We believe the principles of nonintervention and self-determination reject this type of intervention. This intervention is against the law and thus does not help the peace efforts we are promoting.

[Rodriguez] Lorenzo Rodriguez of *Interpress Service*. You just said you met here with representatives from all political groups [words indistinct]. Does this mean that you intend to include leaders of the Nicaraguan opposition abroad in your meetings during this tour?

[Sanguinetti] No, sir. That is not foreseen.

[Estechi] Alfredo Estechi of Radio Excelsior of Buenos Aries. My question is about the effect the U.S. Administration has on the Central American peace process, particularly that of Nicaragua. Part of this question was already answered in your response to the colleague who spoke before me. However, I would like to know if the Group of Eight and the Contadora Group plan to talk with members of the U.S. Congress or the U.S. Administration regarding the supply of arms or other kind of aid to the groups promoting war in the region.

[Sanguinetti] No such talks have been planned, but the topic is on the agenda.

[Garcia] Juan Jose Garcia of the Salvadoran press agency. I want to know your views on the return to El Salvador of FDR leaders Guillermo Ungo and Ruben Zamora. Do you plan to meet with them?

[Sanguinetti] I think it is positive and auspicious. There is no doubt that if two political leaders who are linked to groups such as those they represent decide to return to a country where a tough political and military confrontation is under way, this means there are positive steps within a process of national reconciliation, which is one of the Esquipulas II objectives. I have had no contact with these leaders, but, naturally, I would gladly meet with them if they asked me to.

[Campos] Humberto Campos of Radio Sandino. My question refers to the Esquipulas II agreement made in Guatemala City, a Central American peace agreement that clearly and specifically states that no aid should be given to irregular forces in the region; it adds that those irregular forces cannot operate in or pass through neighboring countries' territories, for example Honduras. This includes the aid sent to the contras from El Salvador. Will you state your position with regard to this issue and the role of the United States during the meeting in Mexico, so the war ends and the Guatemala agreements will be implemented?

[Sanguinetti] We are naturally interested in the search for peace and the agreement's implementation. That is our main goal, and we do not believe it is necessary to make a biased analysis of the agreement's implementation. Instead, we should seek a simultaneous implementation of the agreements, as clearly stipulated in Esquipulas II.

[Robletti] Carlos Robletti of the newspaper *El Pais* in Montevideo. Mr President, it was announced a few hours ago that Alfonso Robelo and other contra leaders might arrive in Nicaragua. Could this influence the peace process in any way?

[Sanguinetti] I have no information with which to confirm or deny the report. I have no information about the situation of those men, but I can say that anything that represents the return of political leaders to a country's political activities is positive, provided that this is done in a peaceful way and advocates a political dialogue—in other words, provided that it does not increase violence. That is how things stand. I cannot refer specifically to those men's personal situation because I know nothing about it.

[Aleman] Melba Aleman of Radio Noticias. Mr Sanguinetti, we would like to hear your conclusions after hearing the views of all the country's sectors. We would really like to hear your views on this.

[Sanguinetti] The important thing here, as I said, is to help attain an atmosphere of peace and democratization. We do not wish to intervene in the internal affairs of Nicaragua or of any other country. We do not claim that right because that would be absurd. We have come to help as much as possible and within logical limits to achieve a reconciliation. The Central Americans themselves should seek and establish their own peace and choose their own destiny. Consequently, I will not pass judgment on Nicaragua's political situation, just as I will not pass judgment on the political situation that prevails in Costa Rica or El Salvador.

We came to help ensure that the international agreements negotiated and signed are duly implemented. We will act in good faith by simply helping and by evaluating the agreements' implementation. Our view with regard to the document signed on 7 August in Esquipulas is that considerable progress has been made by all the countries involved. Some countries have achieved more progress than others, but all have achieved progress. Significant events have taken place in Nicaragua, and we say this objectively. An important pardon was approved here yesterday. The newspaper *La Prensa* has received the authorization to reopen; this newspaper has symbolically represented the opposition in this country.

There is also a political dialogue; it has not ended, of course, but it has already begun. Those of us who have participated in a political dialogue and have sought solutions within a constitutional framework know that it is necessary to sit down and talk things over. Furthermore, we have seen the creation of a national reconciliation commission, comprised of people who have the necessary authority and presided over by Cardinal Obando y Bravo, who represents not only the church but also the country's moral strength. This series of steps represents progress.

We can also state that no progress has been made on other things—for example, a cease-fire, which is an important element; a general amnesty, which is specified in the agreements; and Nicaragua's preconditions set under certain situations or as a result of events. These elements have not been achieved yet, but we cannot ignore what has been achieved and which represents some progress.

[Ramos] Nestor Ramos of AP. Mr President, the Esquipulas agreements imply that the United States must end its aid. However, the United States has disregarded this until now; in fact, it has even refused to abide by the International Court of Justice's ruling. Do you think that the Latin American countries will be able to adopt a definite position during the meeting in Mexico City and to assert their right to self-determination?

[Sanguinetti] The topic will surely be discussed within the context of Latin America's situation.

[Zaldivar] Jose Zaldivar of *La Jornada* in Mexico. Following the rounds of talks with all the political and social sectors in Nicaragua, do you believe there is a better chance of achieving an internal agreement or are there too many differences?

[Sanguinetti] It is difficult to draw such a conclusion; it is difficult to ascertain if there are too many differences or if there is a consensus. If we analyze it based on the current situation, I could say yes, there is reason to believe that a national reconciliation process has begun. We have found that patriotism has prevailed above human passions and that the people want to achieve an agreement. I can reaffirm that.

I can say I found a good attitude in all of them, even in those who could be expected to express more radical positions. There is a general inclination in the country to search for solutions. Nobody is unaware of the economic and social problems and the need for peace. Everyone agrees on this. Of course, opinions on the distribution of responsibility vary. However, I feel there is enough basis to say that it does make sense that a national reconciliation commission operates here, that it does make sense to have a commission for political dialogue, because it is true that these discussions, even though they do not achieve all goals, do achieve some goals. It is necessary for people to go through that stage of sitting around a table, discussing and bringing up things. This is a necessary stage. I see in this a constructive and positive attitude, and there is enough basis to claim this. I do not see it as a dialogue among deaf ears; I see it as a dialogue between people who have different opinions, but who are listening to one another.

[Reporter] [Name indistinct] from CBS, United States. There are leaders here who maintain that the democratization movement in South America, in Latin America, is due at least partly to the revolution here in Nicaragua, that in the rest of the Latin American countries the rulers have found that the democratization process is an alternative to the popular pressures and popular aspirations of the Latin American peoples. I would like to hear your opinion on this theory and whether you feel that Uruguay and the other Latin American democracies owe something to the Sandinist people's revolution.

[Sanguinetti] I am unfamiliar with that theory, but, at any rate, I feel that the democratization processes have responded in each case to the specific needs of each country. This is true in Nicaragua, where Nicaraguan political development responds to its own unique circumstances.

[Speaker] Thank you, Mr President. I thank all of you for your attention, and I want to particularly emphasize the hospitality received from the Nicaraguan Government, which, at all times, made it possible for us to maintain an open, clear, and frank dialogue with all social sectors in the country.

[Reporter] The counterrevolutionaires, the leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance have issued a communique in San Jose, Costa Rica, stating that Alfonso Robelo and Azucena Ferrey are planning to come here tomorrow at noon in order to go to local church officials and to Cardinal Obando y Bravo to deliver in person two documents—one about the mediation role and the other about a cease-fire proposal. My question is whether you are going to allow this or whether you are going to prevent it.

[Ortega] According to the Guatemala agreement those people could not be carrying out that type of activity in Costa Rica. To comply with the Guatemala agreements Costa Rica should prohibit that type of activity such as the one carried out by people like Robelo and Azucena Ferrey, who are linked to criminal groups that are murdering the Nicaraguan people, that are killing children, just as you learned yesterday. If those people want to come to Nicaragua they would first have to accept amnesty.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] then prevent this...

[Ortega, interrupting] Yes, they have to come under the amnesty law. The only alternative they have is to take advantage of the amnesty.

[Fuentes] Douglas Fuentes from UPI. I would like to know what specific steps Nicaragua is going to take to prevent those people from coming.

[Ortega] Well, they simply have to come under the amnesty law if they want to enter our country.

[Speaker] President Ortega has responded to questions by newsmen at this news conference with Uruguayan President Sanguinetti. They are accompanied by Commanders Bayardo Arce, Tomas Borge, Vice President Sergio Ramirez Mercado, and the foreign minister.

Arce Comments on Esquipulas Compliance

FL231400 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 0130 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Interview with Commander Bayardo Arce, FSLN National Directorate member, by Cuban journalists Irma Caceres, Ezequiel Perez Martin, Omar Sepulveda, and Orlando Castellanos; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Caceres] Commander Bayardo Arce, how are the Esquipulas agreements being fulfilled? Could you refer specifically to Nicaragua's case and also to the other Central American countries?

[Arce] Well, we believe that the Nicaraguan Government has practically fulfilled the agreements 100 percent even though it is known by our people and the international community that the execution of some of those agreements are subject to the International Verification and

Follow-Up Commission. This commission has to verify that the other countries have fulfilled the agreements and that it is being done simultaneously as required in the accords to guarantee a feeling of regional stability. We believe that we have to wait for the international commission to meet on 5 December so that they can evaluate the other countries' fulfillment of the accords. We hope that all have honored their presidents' signatures.

[Caceres] But how do you think this is progressing in other countries, such as Guatemala and El Salvador? How is the fulfillment of the agreements progressing?

[Arce] Undoubtedly the fulfillment of those agreements is very complex because the commitments made by each government establish different kinds of obligations for each country. An example of this is the matter of democratization.

In regard to democratization, in countries like Honduras, Guatemala, or El Salvador this would mean lifting restrictions that currently exist on communist parties. Everyone knows that those parties have been declared illegal. They are not allowed to carry out any activities. This would be against the spirit and letter of the Esquipulas agreements. Up to this moment we have not learned of any decision to change that type of action, which is contrary to the Esquipulas agreements, but on 5 December the commission will evaluate this.

To be more precise in my response, we believe that we are progressing, that we have a higher level of fulfillment than other countries in regard to the complex obligations that the presidents drafted at that meeting.

[Perez] Commander, I would like you to comment on Nicaraguan President Comrade Daniel Ortega's recent trips abroad; his trip to the USSR, to Moscow, his speech before the OAS General Assembly, and his visit to Mexico. Internationally speaking, how can these trips benefit the Nicaraguan cause and the implementation of the Esquipulas agreements?

[Arce] Well, Daniel's visits to the USSR, the OAS, and now Mexico are part of the efforts we planned following the signing of the Esquipulas agreements. We decided to carry out a great international effort to talk with all our friends from all political and ideological groups and attend all possible meetings to clearly explain the importance of those agreements, the sacrifices they entail for Nicaragua, and demand their effective solidarity. We have friends who, undoubtedly, have given us very valuable support. Since I am here in Cuba I can use Cuba as an example of a country that has strongly and firmly supported us. However, we have also received expressions of solidarity from other friends who actually shade their solidarity with suggestions and advice that at a certain moment could be in contradiction with the revolution, thus hindering every effort for peace. Therefore, we suggested that Daniel attend those meetings while other members of the FSLN National Directorate have also fulfilled tasks in the international field.

Commander Wheelock will be returning to Nicaragua today from an FAO meeting. Commander Wheelock not only made a speech before the FAO representatives, but he also met with Italiant Government officials and Vatican officials. Just recently I attended a Latin American Democratic Parties' meeting in Guatemala and met with President Vinicio Cerezo. We have also met with many foreign delegations that have visited our country and discussed with them the commitment that the international community has with this effort for peace and their solidarity with Nicaragua.

[Castellanos] Commander Arce, I would like you to tell us what role Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo is playing in these talks.

[Arce] Cardinal Obando y Bravo plays two different roles in this process— let's call it—that opened following the signing of the Esquipulas agreement. His first role is as president of the National Reconciliation Commission. According to the Esquipulas agreements his duties are to verify, locally, that Nicaragua is fulfilling the agreements. We have officially presented our first report on all that the government is doing to fulfill the Esquipulas agreement. He, as president of the commission, and the other members have also signed a document that proves that Nicaragua is abiding by those agreements. But he also has another role which we asked him to play. We asked him to mediate in the cease-fire arrangement with the irregular forces, financed by the U.S. Government. We committed ourselves to do this when we signed the Esquipulas agreement. We committed ourselves to do what we could to reach a cease-fire. The Esquipulas agreements did not establish how this should be done; it could be done directly, publicly, or through a mediator. We chose to do it through a mediator, so we called on him, not as president of the Reconciliation Commission but as president of the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference, as the highest leader of the Nicaraguan Catholic Church. We asked him to take our proposal—everyone has heard of our proposal—to the counterrevolutionary groups and for them to answer, through him, whether they accept our proposal for a cease-fire. We committed ourselves to this when we signed the Esquipulas agreements.

[Sepulveda] What is the counterrevolutionary band's position following the signing of the Esquipulas agreements? They seem bent on continuing the war, supported by the Reagan government, and disregarding the Latin American position that opposes the war. What is their position?

[Arce] The truth is that there have been different reactions among the counterrevolutionaries. We heard that the first reaction of the groups who are operating in the

area was one of uncertainty. This is precisely why we decided to declare a unilateral cease-fire in three zones; we did this to allow them to begin a process of deliberation. We gave them the opportunity of accepting the amnesty and participating in the peace process within the international framework of the agreements we signed. While these three zones were under the unilateral cease-fire we think we achieved two things. First, there was hardly any fighting in those areas. The groups in those areas, in practice, implemented a cease-fire. Second, this allowed approximately 600—I think that the exact number is 592—counterrevolutionaries to surrender, with their weapons, to the country's military authorities, the Red Cross, or the church, and request amnesty. But at the same time the leaders of the counterrevolution who are living in Miami, Costa Rica, and Honduras—the ones who have made a business out of the war—saw that the basis for their business was beginning to cave in. They then began to redouble their efforts to create pressure mechanisms—they even sent some of their cadres into the country to begin military operations in areas outside the cease fire zones—to prevent further problems within their ranks.

We declared this unilateral cease-fire for a month. After the month was up we decided not to extend it because we were going to take this other step, we were going to seek an overall agreement through Cardinal Obando y Bravo. At this moment there is no unilateral cease-fire. We are fighting them in every field and we are waiting for their answer.

As was to be expected, the first to answer Nicaragua's efforts was Reagan. He immediately met with the foreign ministers at the OAS and said that even though he viewed some of our steps as positive he was still demanding direct talks with the contras, but this is is something that the Nicaraguan revolutionary government finds totally unacceptable. The big prize he was offering in exchange for that dialogue was to send Shultz to meet with the Central American foreign ministers. Reagan also rejected a bilaternal dialogue with Nicaragua. The United States suspended that dialogue after the Manzanillo talks.

Following Reagan's lead some leaders of the counterrevolution—in other words, those hired hands in the United States or Costa Rica—are making statements practically rejecting the cease-fire and demanding a political dialogue. They have not given us their formal, official answer yet, but if they maintain this demand for a political dialogue they will be showing that they have no willingness for peace and that this has been a U.S. strategy—as the international community already knows—of demanding one thing, of offering something else, and of not keeping promises—this is a never-ending process.

Esquipulas specifies that we must decide on a way to establish a cease-fire and completely rules out a political dialogue. Besides, we have nothing political to talk about with the counterrevolutionaries, who are a mercenary force organized, financed, directed, and armed by the United States. At any rate, if we were to hold a political dialogue we would hold it with the country waging war against us, the United States. We would sit down and hold a political dialogue with the United States to determine [words indistinct] to stop the war and discuss what they want and what we want in order to normalize our relations.

[Caceres] Commander, you said that when those counterrevolutionaries, or bands, saw that their business was coming to an end they reacted. Could you expand on this?

[Arce] Among the counterrevolutionaries we have to distinguish between two different kinds of men: the men who are in the area, men who may be mistaken in their way of thinking. Many of those men may have committed atrocious crimes and do not dare confront our troops; those men choose to attack civilian targets like peasant cooperatives. They also kill and terrorize people. But the way we see it they are in the country. At a given moment that man has to fight our troops and our peasants who have some training in self defense. But there are others who live in the United States, in Washington, Miami, Costa Rica, and Honduras, who are making more money. They get paid $10,000, $6,000, $20,000 a month. They are the ones who live in comfort and present themselves as the leaders; they are the ones who are seen photographed with Reagan; they are the ones who speak before the U.S. Congress asking for aid. They travel to other countries and present themselves as the leaders in the struggle against the Nicaraguan Government even if they have never put a foot inside the country. For those people the war is nothing but a business. If the war were to end tomorrow because the United States decided to abide by the Esquipulas agreements or because it decided to change its policy and normalize its relations with our country, those men would be fired. There would be no reason to continue paying them $10,000 and $20,000 a month and they would really have to go out and get themselves a real job.

[Perez] Commander, the enemies of the Nicaraguan revolution want to compare something that cannot be compared. I am speaking of the fact that in Guatemala and El Salvador the governments have met with the guerrillas. The enemies of the revolution have tried to compare the guerrillas in those countries to the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries. This is proof that there is a plan aimed at presenting Nicaragua as a country that did not abide by the Esquipulas agreement. Other than the diplomatic and bilateral work currently being done by the Sandinist government, what other specific measures do you have to fight against this campaign?

[Arce] As I was saying, I think we must now wait for the decision of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission, which includes people we believe are serious and represent the most important countries and

organizations to which we Central Americans belong: the UN and the OAS. They will decide what is true compliance. We also believe that the Central American presidents are serious about this. I told you that 10 or 15 days ago—I don't recall exactly—I met in Guatemala with President Cerezo, and he knows that the talks he requested between his delegates and the URNG are not part of the Esquipulas agreement. The talks between Duarte and the FMLN-FDR leadership are not part of the Esquipulas agreements. In any case, those are unilateral efforts made by those two presidents because of their domestic situations. We must remember that Duarte began talks with the guerrillas 4 years ago. He had met with them before the Esquipulas summit and the talks had been suspended. Regarding President Cerezo's decision, well, this is a new government that only recently brought back a civilian regime to Guatemala. For quite some time Guatemala had been isolated from the international community because of its human rights violations and other problems that everyone knows about. President Cerezo felt that making this unilateral decision, not included in the Esquipulas agreements, would be good for peace.

Nicaragua has also done its part. For example, Esquipulas had nothing to do with when we decided to grant pardons to all the Central American prisoners we had captured with the counterrevolution. Those were mercenaries and our decision had nothing to do with Esquipulas. We also decided to abolish a law that we called the absentee law. That law allowed the government to confiscate the property of those people who left the country for more than a year and who were making a profit while living abroad without experiencing the process and difficulties that the Nicaraguans were experiencing because of the aggression. All that was not included in Esquipulas. They were our contributions to peace.

Furthermore, the Esquipulas agreements speak of creating reconciliation commissions, but there were different ways of forming those commissions. We selected the members of our commission from among a group of men who could truly contribute to the peacemaking efforts. In other countries they probably appointed government officials just to say that they were abiding by the agreement but not for that commission to work in the search for peace.

In Nicaragua and throughout the world everyone knows that Cardinal Obando y Bravo has criticized the revolution. Of course, we are the first to admit that he has. However, we asked him to head the commission even though he has criticized us. Why? Because if we appointed one of our followers he would not be able to help us in a real process of domestic reconciliation. We had to appoint someone who criticizes us. However, this commission will not be the determining factor. We also have to take other things into consideration.

We have studied the results of the talks held by El Salvador and Guatemala. You, as journalists, can try and find out what the Salvadoran Government offered the guerrillas. They made no offer. There is no formal offer. You can also try and find out what the Guatemalan Government offered the Guatemalan guerrillas. Nothing. They decided to sit down and discuss overall political issues. They were not forced to do it; it was a good gesture on their part. That's fine. However, we have presented a formal proposal. Our proposal includes 7 whereas clauses and 11 points. I think that all this will surface when the international commission analyzes the fulfillment of the agreements.

[Perez] Is there any possibility that Nicaragua might be accused of not complying with the agreements?

[Arce] No.

[Perez] In this or any other aspect?

[Arce] No, I do not think Nicaragua can be accused of anything. Were they to award a prize we would have already won it.

[Sepulveda] How has the Nicaraguan proposal been received by Latin America?

[Arce] I think that in general, not only in Latin America but throughout the world, all our efforts have been recognized. It has been very clear that the steps that Nicaragua began to take prior to 5 November were genuine expressions of our determination to search for peace. The truth is that according to the letter of the Esquipulas agreement those agreements should have been implemented on 5 November. However, we began to take steps toward that much earlier. We took steps that were not easy for us. Amid a war that does not stop and threatens to increase—Reagan is asking for $270 million—we have lifted press censorship and we reopened *La Prensa*, a newspaper that works for the U.S. Embassy so openly that it no longer bothers us—their position is so clumsy. Well, we took that step, we allowed Radio Catolica to resume broadcasts. We did not have to do all that before 5 November; furthermore, we are not even obliged to do that at this moment because we must only abide by the agreements if there is simultaneity. We are committed to democratization, amnesty, and all those other things the day we receive verification that all the counterrevolutionary camps in Honduras have been closed; that the supply of weapons from El Salvador has ended; that Radio Liberacion in El Salvador has been closed down; that Radio Impacto in Costa Rica has been closed down; that Radio 15 September in Honduras has been closed down; and that the offices of the counterrevolution in San Jose, Tegucigalpa, and El Salvador have been closed. We will be committed to abide by the agreements the day we receive confirmation that the United States—even though it is not mentioned by name in the Esquipulas agreements—is no longer helping the counterrevolution; the day we receive confirmation that the counterrevolution is receiving help from no one. Only then will we be committed to abide by the agreements. But we went ahead because we truly want peace.

Latin America and the international community have seen this, and we hope that this will be included in the report to be issued by the international commission.

[Caceres] Since we are on the subject of Latin America, what does Nicaragua expect from the upcoming summit to be held in Mexico?.

[Arce] The Group of the Eight, as we know it today—the first organization created to resolve the Central American problems is known as Contadora, later expanded with the Support Group—is the stage on which Latin America can see the overall problems of the area which in the past were viewed separately; problems like the foreign debt, international trade, technological backwardness, and so forth.

We believe that the Group of Eight—doing justice to the reasons it was created for—will discuss the Central American problem. We hope that since they are part of the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission formed by Esquipulas they will analyze the efforts made by the various countries of the region, especially the efforts made by the Nicaraguan people and government, and adopt measures measures that will allow us to fulfill the agreements.

We have a theory. We believe that peace in Central America can only be achieved in two ways. One way would be that the United States stop attacking the Nicaraguan people, encouraging war in El Salvador, and opposing peaceful solutions that have been considered for the Central American region. The other way would be that the Central American governments truly unite, with the support of Latin America and the international community, and seek peace regardless of what the United States wants. Esquipulas represents the hope of this second alternative. If the Latin American presidents support Esquipulas effectively and take steps so that the EEC, Europe, the socialist countries, and the Nonaligned Movement support Esquipulas, the Central American presidents will feel confident in promoting this second peace alternative.

This is not easy. See what happened to Honduras; they began to abide by the agreements and they are now being punished. The U.S. Congress has already cut their 1988 military aid by 60 percent and their economic aid by 30 percent. So, all countries have already begun to be pressured. If these Central American countries do not find a friendly hand in the international community it is going to be very difficult for them to comply. That is why Daniel Ortega, in his OAS speech, proposed that the gringos use the $270 million they are asking for the contras and distribute this money among the four Central American countries. We are not asking for ourselves; we are asking for them. We will see how we can manage with the help from other friends.

[Caceres] I do not want to lose the opportunity to go back to domestic issues. You said a while ago that the Miskito problem was resolved. I would like for you to discuss this briefly.

[Arce] I said it was practically resolved because the Miskito problem, well, we were somewhat inexperienced [words indistinct] the progress process which began with the revolution, we were not able to set the best communication methods and the CIA and the U.S. Government started to meddle and promote a separatist movement. The Miskitos began demanding a sort of independence and sovereignty over half of the territory where, in addition, all forestry, mining, and fishery reserves of the country are located. They armed them and considered them as part of the entire counterrevolutionary plan. But the Miskito people began to realize that they were being manipulated and have begun to lay down their weapons. We have reached agreements on a cease-fire, the Miskitos who fled to Honduras have returned to the country, and there is practically no military problem with the Miskitos. So, this is a trump card the United States has lost. Initially, the United States not only created military problems in the entire Atlantic area but also unleashed a negative propaganda campaign at the international level. It was a worldwide campaign; they claimed that we were committing mass murder, or the like, against the Miskitos.

[Perez] Several political observers and international news agencies consider the fact that the U.S. Government has postponed until next year the $270 million contra aid request as a strategic maneuver to show themselves as the benevolent ones and that the Nicaraguan revolution is inflexible. What do you think about this, Commander?

[Arce] I believe that two factors are at stake here. First, Reagan does not feel sure—he has every reason for not feeling sure—that if he asks for the $270 million at this moment he is not going to get it. One has to realize that Irangate weakened him and he has had some defeats in his attempts at nominating ultraconservatives to the Supreme Court of Justice. Following the Esquipulas agreements and other regional happenings the idea of continuing to finance attacks on Nicaragua is not very popular. Reagan is afraid of receiving another blow that would really hurt him in 1988, the last year of his government. But there is also some kind of a maneuver behind all this. They are trying to present this as a step toward peace while at the same time they are holding a sort of Damocles sword over Nicaragua as a threat that if we do not yield to their pressures we are going to be hit with the $270 million at a certain time.

These two factors are linked, and for us it is very difficult to establish which one [words indistinct]. We believe that it is important that U.S. public opinion, especially

the Congress, understand what is happening in our America and that that $270 million be doomed to failure as of now, no matter when President Reagan decides to request it.

[Castellanos] Commander, I have a question for you. Many people feel that the implementation and development of the Esquipulas II agreements can hinder the revolutionary development of the Nicaraguan people. How do you view this? Is it possible? Impossible?

[Arce] Frankly, we also noticed this concern among some sectors of our people. This is why we issued—I think it was on 29 October—an FSLN proclamation explaining to the people and the international community our assessment of the Esquipulas agreements and our positions regarding this. In that proclamation we clearly established that as far as we are concerned the Esquipulas II agreements are not in contradiction with out revolutionary plans. Had they been in contradiction with our revolutionary plans we would not have signed them, Nicaragua would not have signed them. Why are the agreements not in contradiction with our revolutionary plans? Because the Esquipulas agreements are based on respect for the constitutional regime, the organization or constitutional ideas of each of the countries; respect for their laws; and respect for the legitimacy of the governments. The agreements respect our Constitution, our laws, and the legitimacy of our government; therefore, we do not feel that the basic principles of the revolution can be affected because those principles are established in our Constitution.

The problem is that there could be other interpretations. As we would say, revolution is many times associated with instructions established in a manual. Perhaps there are some people who feel that the Nicaraguan revolutionary system follows some manual. However, our revolution only follows what we have always practiced and our own political position.

From the very beginning of our efforts for economic and social reconstruction we observed that our country's economic and social realities and the international situation called for a certain political organization. We had to guarantee some truly revolutionary principles for the Nicaraguan, Central American, Latin America, and—I would say—Third World situations. We had to guarantee the principles of sovereignty, independence, and self-determination. They must be sacred principles. We express those principles through a nonaligned policy. That is why we have always defended this policy because one of the gringo demands has always been that we break with Cuba and the USSR. The United States wants to choose our friends. For us that is unacceptable. We choose our own friends.

Second, Nicaragua is a country of craftsmen and medium and small producers of a certain economic middle class. We had to implement an economic system that would be in accord with this situation. We could not just go ahead and decree that because a certain manual states that property must be completely owned by the state or society, that our craftsmen and small and medium producers would no longer own the land or farm. No, we could not do that. We had to include them in a revolutionary process and even accept the fact that we had some large land owners. What did we have to guarantee what we call our mixed economy regime? We had to guarantee a laborer-peasant hegemony and a control of the laborer-peasant alliance over the economic efforts. How did we state this in our Constitution? Well, we respect the different forms of ownership, but the financial system, natural resources, and foreign trade are all handled by the state. Through these mechanisms we direct the economic system. The private sector has participation, but within an economic policy established by the state for the good of the majorities.

Panama

PRD Rejects U.S. Senate's 'Arrogance'

PA232230 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 23 Nov 87 p 2

[Statement issued by the Democratic Revolutionary Party; date and place not given]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] again rejects the attempts by U.S. reactionary sectors to intervene in Panama's democratic affairs and to economically attack our nation, violating international law.

We report to the national and international public that those U.S. reactionary forces want to make the Panamanian people give up their nationalist, sovereign position. Those forces' unconcealable objective is to not comply with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, particularly the obligation to withdraw from our territory at the end of this century.

The U.S. Senate resolution, under the guise of restricting U.S. aid to Panama, seeks to make our country's independent government dependent on the Senate's desires and arrogance. This continues to escalate the U.S. campaign against Panama.

The PRD protests this interference in our domestic affairs and supports the fitting words of President Eric Arturo Delvalle, who, citing General Torrijos, reiterated that "Panama will always be standing, never kneeling." It also supports the position adopted by General Manuel A. Noriega, who in Mar del Plata, Argentina, said, "the U.S. politicians who intervene in Panama's domestic affairs do so with the sole insolent desire and belief that Panama is a U.S. colony." Gen Noriega reaffirmed what our party has been saying when he said, "the opposition should respect the 1989 election date and the U.S. Embassy should take its hands out of my country's domestic politics."

By making this statement the PRD wants to stress what it stated on the 19th anniversary of the Panamanian revolutionary process, when it expressed its "resolute decision to continue to struggle for full national sovereignty and for the fulfillment of what was agreed upon in the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, to reject foreign intervention in our domestic affairs, and to consolidate Panama's right to self-determination."

Because the U.S. aggression is increasingly becoming more open, the PRD issues a call to all the active nationalist, progressive, and independent forces to form a national anti-imperialist front that will block the plans of those who want to destroy Panama as a free and sovereign state.

Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, PRD President

Carlos Ozores T., PRD Secretary General

Argentina

Alfonsin To Attend Group of Six Meeting

PY191907 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0118 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Nov (TELAM)—It was officially reported today that President Raul Alfonsin will attend the third meeting of heads of state of the nations that make up the Group of Six for Disarmament. The meeting will be held from 21 to 22 January 1988 in Stockholm, Sweden.

The meeting will also be attended by Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson, Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid, and former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere.

The meeting was announced by the Swedish Foreign Ministry through a communique released by the Swedish Embassy in Argentina. The communique was distributed at the press room of Government House.

The communique quotes the Swedish prime minister as stating that the Stockholm meeting will be an expression of true support for disarmament and that we, the leaders, will be able to assess the outcome of the discussions held by President Reagan and CPSU General Secretary Gorbachev in their December summit.

The communique adds that there will be an opportunity to express our opinion on the steps to be taken in order to ensure a change, moving away from the arms race and nuclear war.

The communique emphasizes that the goal of the Group of Six, which was created 3 years ago, is to encourage talks among the great powers and to uphold the right of all nations to voice their opinion on nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament.

Caridi Reports Results of Armies Conference

PY240224 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1815 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpts] General Dante Caridi today said the function of the Argentine Army is "the defense of the country and its sovereignty" and "not the fight against drug trafficking." Caridi briefly reported on the results of the Armies of the Americas Conference. He stressed the general agreement of the armies of the continent on the need "to safeguard the democratic and republican systems."

The 17th Conference of the Armies of the Americas met in strict secrecy in Mar del Plata last week, but the topics of terrorism and drug trafficking were two of the main issues on which some details were revealed.

Regarding the internal situation of the Army, Caridi reiterated his opinion on the professionalization of the force and maintained that "the problems" that the Army confronted this year "have already been overcome." This was a clear reference to the Holy Week uprising and the incident in La Tablada.

Regarding the possible intervention of the Army in the fight against drug trafficking—an issue that is strongly promoted by the United States—Caridi said there are "specialized organizations" for the task in Argentina, and mentioned the Police Department, the National Border Police, and the Naval Prefecture.

He added, however, that these organizations should coordinate their efforts to better fight drug trafficking, even though such relations "could already exist." [passage omitted]

Regarding the training plans for next year, Caridi said "in the last meeting we had with the commanders of the different units we agreed that after the problems we had in 1987, we should try for total professionalization of the Army in 1988."

"We are going to put all our efforts on education, qualification, training, and instruction throughout 1988," Caridi said.

Bolivia's Bedregal Arrives on Official Visit

PY222258 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2250 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 21 Nov (TELAM)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal arrived in Argentina today just after 1930 for a 3-day official visit. During his stay he will meet with Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo.

Bedregal disembarked with his wife and Jorge Valdez, Bolivian Foreign Ministry under secretary, in the military area of the metropolitan airport. He was met by Caputo and Jorge Romero, international economic relations under secretary.

The visitor did not speak with the press, and he quickly left the airport in the company of his Argentine colleague.

Comments on Gas Payments

PY231914 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1319 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Nov (TELAM)—Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez, who is now in Buenos Aires, has stated that Argentina's problem with its payments for Bolivian gas has been overcome through the signing of an agreement with Foreign Minister Caputo. Bedregal added that it is most important now to reactivate trade relations between the two countries.

The Bolivian foreign minister, who will meet President Raul Alfonsin today, said that one of the topics to be discussed with Argentine Government officials is the construction of railroads. He said that the two countries must create binational companies to jointly develop these projects.

Bedregal added that common issues within the framework of integration, democracy, and development and their position before third countries will also be discussed. He pointed out that in the face of the current serious economic situation the two countries are obliged to become aware of the need for a common struggle against the difficult situation.

I believe that our relations are improving at all levels, said Bedregal Gutierrez during a conversation with Radio El Mundo.

Asked about inflation in Bolivia, Bedregal said that annual inflation has fallen from 25,000 percent in 1985 to single-digit figures. Regarding GDP growth the minister predicted that it will grow by about 3 percent this year.

Regarding tax reform he said that 1,500 ineffective tax laws have been abolished and that there are now six or seven laws which are giving excellent results.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

PY240136 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2030 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Nov (NA)—The Bolivian and Argentine Governments today decided to establish a system of bilateral consultations through their respective Foreign Ministries "to strengthen the political dialogue between the two nations."

This concept is part of "the Act of Buenos Aires" that was signed at the end of a meeting today between Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez.

According to the act, the agreement responds to the common desire to establish a system of consultations "to realize the common goal of implementing the objectives of fraternal relations."

The two countries agreed to hold bilateral meetings on a regular basis "to discuss bilateral, regional, and world issues, and to try to unify positions on those issues."

The act also says that "the dynamics of the regional reality demand more flexible mechanisms to reach a better level of understanding of the problems affecting all countries."

The act states that "the international situation makes a system of consultations necessary for the discussion of and search for agreements on these situations."

The document adds that these meetings "could constitute the proper framework to evaluate the development of current issues." [passage indistinct]

The meetings could be held at different political levels: foreign ministers, under secretaries, or directors." [quotation mark as received]

Bedregal and Caputo maintain in the document that the present agreement "consolidates the unwavering will of the two peoples to participate on the path toward a destiny leading to common development."

Official on Children of Missing in Paraguay

PY211816 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1858 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 20 Nov (NA)—Alberto Ferrari Etcheverry, Foreign Ministry Latin American affairs under secretary, said today, after a short visit to Asuncion, that "we are hopeful" about an agreement with Paraguay whereby next year the OAS will investigate the cases of children of disappeared persons who are being held by the killers of their parents.

Argentine Ambassador to Paraguay Raul Quijano yesterday accompanied Ferrari Etcheverry to Asuncion after remaining 2 months in Buenos Aires. Quijano said the extradition of a former police officer and a former Argentine Army officer "depends on the Paraguayan Government." Quijano also said relations with Paraguay are "good." [passage omitted]

Ferrari Etcheverry was asked at the metropolitan airport upon his return from Asuncion today if the extradition of the former security police officer "was imminent." He answered that "it is not" because this "depends on a decision of the Paraguayan Government."

Ferrari Etcheverry stressed, however, the "similarity in the opinions" of Argentina and Paraguay in the OAS when they voted in favor of an OAS investigation into the situation of children of disappeared parents.

Regarding this attitude, Ferrari Etcheverry said "we are hopeful about this agreement," and therefore "we think Ambassador Raul Quijano's presence in Asuncion is necessary." [passage omitted]

Atomic Energy Consultative Council Planned

PY201111 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1052 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Nov (TELAM)—The government has decided to create a National Atomic Energy Consultative Council [Consejo Consultivo Nacional de Energia Atomica], whose main objective will be to advise the CNEA president in drawing up studies and projects in the reorganization of nuclear activities.

According to Decree No 1832, the objectives of the sector will be preserving the available human resources and maintaining the level of technological development achieved by the country in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The decision is based on the need to guarantee the continuation of the work accomplished thus far by the CNEA. To achieve this it is essential to conduct several studies and projects to reorganize nuclear activities that will result in the adoption of appropriate measures.

The following have been designated members of the council: Dan Jacobo Beninson, Enrique Mariano, Carlos Martinez Vidal, Roberto Perazzo, Raul Abel Tomas, and Oscar Wortman.

The new council will advise on the preparation of specific programs and conduct annual checks on the results of their implementation. It will also advise on the planning and construction of projects related to the nuclear generation of electricity, in compliance with the guidelines established by the Foreign Ministry.

The council will also make proposals on the status of CNEA personnel with regard to appointments, promotions, transfers, and dismissals. It will also submit proposals on granting scholarships, contracting foreign experts, signing direct research contracts, and adopting measures that will contribute to the training and improvement of personnel.

Government Promises CGT Arbitration Boards

PY201515 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2058 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Nov (DYN)—The government has promised the CGT [General Confederation of Labor] that labor-management arbitration committees will be established beginning 1 January 1988 and that "economic emergency" measures will not be declared, in an effort to avoid the 36-hour stoppage that has been announced by the central labor organization.

Labor Minister Ideler Tonelli was in charge of informing a small CGT group headed by Saul Ubaldini about this decision. The labor minister, however, declined to comment on the salary increase the CGT is seeking before the end of the year.

Ubaldini said that tomorrow the CGT excecutive council will decide whether or not to postpone the announced stoppage and thus hold the meeting President Alfonsin has requested.

The labor leaders made it known that the promises to establish labor-management arbitration committees is not enough to stop the stoppage and that a gradual salary improvement is necessary before establishing the labor-management arbitration committees.

CPA Denounces Kidnapping of Militant

PY201704 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1418 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Nov (NA)—The PCA has reported the disappearance of Alejandra Rodriguez, a party militant from Buenos Aires, who was kidnapped on 18 August. The PCA demanded that Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia give explanations and clarifications regarding the kidnapping and torture of yet another militant, Beatriz Canelles, and the murder of leader Osvaldo Villanueva.

According to the report released yesterday by the PCA public relations office, at 0830 on 16 November Alejandra Rodriguez "was last seen at Manuela Pedraza and Ossorio, Lanus District, when she was about to leave to look for a job."

The report says that after she was first kidnapped on 18 August "someone followed her and her sister Lucia, a militant high school student, constantly," and that a Fiat 600 car "was always parked at the door of the party offices at Ituzaingo and Sarmiento. The same car always appeared near the building where she studied, the ENET [expansion unknown], Honorio Pueyrredon annex, in the workers neighborhood of Lanus."

The PCA claims that the first kidnapping and this disappearance are due "to the increased struggle for student half-price bus tickets," and reiterates that on 18 August she was kidnapped at 1900 from 25 de Mayo and Oliden, Villa Diamante, Buenos Aires Province.

On that occasion, a group of five men pushed her into a cream-colored Ford Falcon, blindfolded her, and drove around for 15 minutes. She was then beaten and questioned about her political activities in a neighborhood house and was abandoned 22 blocks away after receiving death threats. The kidnappers also issued warnings to her fellow workers and family to give up their political activities in the Villa.

Bolivia

Mass Media Union Leaders Call 24-Hour Strike

PY231647 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0340 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] La Paz, 22 Nov (EFE)—Bolivian mass media union leaders today confirmed they have called a 24-hour strike to be held next Tuesday [date not further specified].

They will stage the strike to protest police action during a peaceful march that press workers staged in La Paz on 20 November.

The march, in which legislators, newspaper editors, and radio and television workers also participated, was held to reject the draft law that will eliminate the right to anonymity and the right to conceal news sources.

Moreover, through this law, journalists would be subject to penal procedures.

Union leaders have said that during the strike next Tuesday there will be no newspapers or radio and television broadcasts in any of the important Bolivian cities.

This strike has been called by the Bolivian Press Workers Federation and the Bolivian Radio and Television Workers Union.

Further Reports on Importing PRC Weapons

PY201435 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] The importing of weapons from the PRC was carried out legally; all import and customs taxes were paid. This was stated by the Corporacion Comercial del Oriente in a document released to the public.

The Oriente Company document states that on 9 June 1987 the firm, in the name of the China Northern Industrial Corporation [name as heard], requested Defense Ministry permission to import the weapons to exhibit them at an international fair.

The Oriente Company states it complied with all the legal procedures to import the weapons.

Arms Reportedly for Guerrillas

PY231452 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2123 GMT 22 Nov 87

[Text] La Paz, 22 Nov (EFE)—Fernando Barthelemy, a progovernment deputy and former interior minister, has said that the contraband PRC weapons seized on 13 November were intended for guerrilla groups in neighboring countries, particularly Peru.

In an inteview with a local news agency, Barthelemy noted that the Shining Path, which operates in Peru, was one of the consignees of the PRC arms shipment, for which Bolivia only serves as a "transit point."

Deputy Barthelemy dismissed the possibility that the arms may have been sent for drug traffickers in Bolivia, and stated: "I do not believe there could be a Bolivian who would turn this type of weapons over to the drug traffickers in this country."

Barthelemy said that when he was interior minister, he had read reports about the illegal entry of weapons into Bolivia, but investigations "failed to confirm these reports." The former minister added that "when I headed the Interior Ministry, we received many reports of the frequent entry of arms into Bolivian territory for transshipment to the Shining Path." At that time "we learned that these weapons were taken to Peru, using Bolivian territory as a transit point."

Barthelemy dismissed the notion that the Bolivian Armed Forces might have employed that irregular method to import arms into the country.

Some of the weapons found in the contraband seized by the customs of Santa Cruz, east of La Paz, are rifles, mortars, rocket launchers, fragmentation grenades, and others.

Brazil

Bresser Prepares Public Spending, Tax Package

PY231258 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Finance Minister Bresser Pereira is preparing a new economic package to reduce public spending and make the tax system fairer.

Only after submitting the package to President Sarney and discussing it with the PMDB and the PFL, will Bresser release the new economic package. Minister Bresser said, however, that the package will not include a price freeze. [passage omitted]

Minister Bresser expects to release the package before the end of the year. [passage omitted]

IMF Delegation Follows Economic Situation

PY240213 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] An IMF delegation is collecting information on the development of the Brazilian economy. The 20th floor of the Central Bank building today had new faces working there. They were members of the IMF delegation headed by U.S. economist (Thomas Hushman). They are studying data on the Brazilian economy. Today the IMF delegation pursued its own agenda. Late in the afternoon it paid a visit to the Finance Ministry, where the delegation members held talks with Secretary General Mailson da Nobrega, and with Yoshiaki Nakano, special adviser for economic affairs.

(Thomas Hushman) talked briefly to reporters, but avoided answering questions on a possible agreement on the renegotiation of the Brazilian foreign debt. He said this delegation's mission is not negotiating, but following the Brazilian economy, as agreed upon when Dilson Funaro was still Brazilian finance minister.

(Hushman) said that since many changes have taken place in the Brazilian economy, the government considered it necessary for the delegation to visit. Although he said this delegation's mission was not to negotiate the

debt, he admitted that should Brazil succeed in establishing an agreement on the foreign debt, this same mission will probably return for the conclusion of the agreement.

The IMF delegation will remain in Brazil for 2 weeks, and next week it will meet with Finance Minister Bresser Pereira. The Central Bank has promised to issue a report every day on the activities of the IMF delegation in our country.

Guimaraes Discusses Presidential Candidacy

PY231440 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes returned to Brasilia last night, and said he is ready to resume his duties as Constitutent Assembly president, president of the Chamber of Deputies, and of the PMDB. Guimaraes has recovered from the heart problem that forced him to undergo treatment at the Sao Paulo Heart Institute. Several politicians and friends welcomed him at the airport.

In an interview, Guimaraes said it is more important to chair the Constituent Assembly meetings than to run for the presidency. Commenting on the results of a poll released this weekend, which show him as the second most popular presidential candidate after former Rio de Janeiro Governor Leonel Brizola, Ulysses Guimaraes said now is not the time to start a presidential campaign. [passage omitted]

Resumes Duties

PY240044 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Excerpt] After being away from his activities at the National Constituent Assembly for a week, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes today officially resumed his duties as president of the Constituent Assembly and had a very busy day.

In the morning, he met with a group of congressmen, and in the afternoon with Senators Fernando Cardoso and Mario Covas, FPMR leaders in the Senate and in the Constituent Assembly.

They discussed the proposal for changing the internal rules of the national Constituent Assembly.

Deputy Guimaraes returned from Sao Paulo with enthusiasm. He said he is willing to resume his activities at the Constituent Assembly and will begin by trying to speed up the work. [passage omitted]

Aeronautics Company Views U. S. Trade Relations

PY231709 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 Nov 87 p 22

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos—Brazilian Aeronautics Company (Embraer) President Ozilio Carlos da Silva yesterday criticized the Special Secretariat for Information Science (SEI), and said Brazilian plane purchasers were "astounded" to learn that Brazilian bureaucracy caused the worsening of the country's trade relations with the United States. He also pointed out that SEI will only be able to meet to analyze such a serious problem next year, after carnival.

Several plane purchasers have asked Embraer to include a clause in contracts that have already been signed stating that, if planes are surtaxed, "Embraer will bear the losses." One of these companies, Tax Air, purchased 20 planes but none has been delivered so far." The price per plane is $6 million, and if to this price a surtax of only '1 percent' is added, we will no longer be able to sell to the United States," Ozilio da Silva said. He explained that other companies offer prices and conditions that are almost similar, and a surtax would make Brazilian prices no longer competitive.

Embraer's president believes that, if surtaxes on planes are confirmed, "we will lose not only some purchasers but also the entire market that we conquered through hard work and investments. We are not running the risk of reducing our market, we are risking the market itself." Ozilio da Silva said that these risks also apply to shoes and other national products.

Emphasizing that Brazilian exporters are expecting a political negotiation between the U.S. and Brazilian Governments, he said: "Any solution will be honorable because national honor is not at risk." He believes that the entire problem is merely a trade problem "and that we must be pragmatic because our industries sell to the United States to create more jobs and to obtain more dollars, which will be used in developing technology."

Ozilio da Silva said: "The Brazilian negotiators were doing very well," and then the United States threatened with retaliations because the Brazilian Government was too slow in making its decisions. "The Americans have accepted the information science laws, the market reserve, everything. Excessive bureaucracy, however, made the U.S. president adopt the measures he deemed necessary."

Exporters, Ozilio da Silva said, knew that the Americans "were not bluffing, but they did not quite believe the U.S. Government would really retaliate." After consultation, "we learned at Itamaraty that the Brazilian Government would have to wait for the CONIN (National Council for Information Science and Automation) meeting, which will be held next year—too late."

According to Ozilio da Silva, Embraer will try everything to defend its products.

He said that 30 percent of the final price of a plane produced in Brazil is spent on U.S.—imported equipment. "Embraer will export some $140 million to the United States this year, but will buy $150 million in equipment for other types of planes."

National Trade Surplus To Reach $16 Billion

PY201520 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Namir Salek, Director of the Bank of Brazil's Foreign Trade Department, CACEX, has said that Brazil's October trade surplus reached $1.2 billion. Salek said that total exports reached $2.51 billion and total imports $1.31 billion in October. Manufactured goods provided most of the surplus. The transport sector had the largest surplus with cars, trucks and spare parts worth $267 million. The second largest was the sector of boilers, machines, and mechanical materiel with $147 million. Next was iron [word indistinct] with $120 million.

CACEX Director Namir Salek said that U.S. announced retaliations will only affect next year's trade balance. [passage omitted]

Salek also said that the October surplus was smaller than September's by almost $300 million because the Brazilian Coffee Institute, IBC, did not export any goods in October. Salek thinks that CACEX is able to administer coffee exports in the same way it administers orange juice and soybean exports.

Salek also said that the goal of a $10.5-billion surplus this year will be easily attained, counting on a surplus of $700 million in November and December.

Public Deficit Target Figures Increased

PY201406 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 19 Nov 87

[Report by Marcia Pompeu]

[Excerpt] The initial estimate of the economic advisers who administer the macroeconomic control program was that the public deficit would not exceed 3.5 percent of the GDP. However, financial requirements, especially those of the state-owned enterprises, as well as the appearance of unbudgeted increases in some expenditures, have led the government to revise the target for the public deficit from 3.5 percent to 4.9 percent of the GDP, which would total 573.4 billion cruzados. [passage omitted including indistinct portion]

Chile

New Movement Adopts Name of Pinochet

PY231336 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 23 Nov 87

[Text] The 9 September Civic Patriotic Movement decided this weekend to adopt, as the name of the movement, President Augusto Pinochet Ugarte's name. This was one of six motions approved at the national plenum held in Santiago. The movement's regional secretaries attended the plenum of this organization, which is headed by Manuel Contreras Loyola. Henceforth, the organization will be known as the 9 September Civic Patriotic Movement Augusto Pinochet Ugarte.

Through other motions, 11 March 1988 was set as the date for mass rallies in all regions of the country to mark the anniversary of the new Constitution; also on that date, the campaign for gathering signatures in support of the chief of state will be launched, and the campaign for voter registration throughout the country will be stepped up.

United Left on Readiness To Join Opposition

PY201956 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1405 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Text] Santiago, 20 Nov (EFE)—The Marxist and multiparty United Left [IU] today announced its disposition to participate in a meeting with all other parties that oppose Pinochet's government, and submitted a 4-point proposal directed to all those opposed to the military regime.

The proposition, published today by the local press, lays down "a program for the unity and struggle of the Chilean people," and says that "the creation of a state of mobilization, social unrest, revolt, and democratic uprising could provoke the estrangement of the people from the present government and its path."

The IU proposes "a united promotion of mobilizations, the struggle for free elections, the rejection of the plebiscite, and the signing of an agreement for a future government, for the defense and exercise of human rights, and for the achievement of social justice."

The IU also said that the decision of the Christian Democratic Party to register as a political party, and the agreement of other parties, including the socialists, "to create and register a party that will strive for democracy" was a "serious mistake."

FPMR Terrorist Arrested in Valparaiso

PY211604 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Nov 87

[Report from Valparaiso]

[Text] The following is an official communique released to the public by the office of the 5th region intendant:

1. Today, 20 November 1987, the National Intelligence Center [CNI] placed at the disposal of the office of the military prosecutor in Valparaiso an FPMR [Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front] terrorist, who was discovered in possession of powerful weapons, including armor-piercing rockets and automatic rifles.

2. The following are the terrorist's name and other personal data: name, Florencio Antonio Velasquez Negrete; age, 28; alias, 'Lisandro' and 'Ruben'; political membership, a militant of the proscribed PCCh and the FPMR; position, a member of the FPMR regional executive board in Valparaiso.

When he was arrested, Florencio Velasquez was armed with a 9-mm "Browning" pistol, which he tried to use against his captors.

3. The following items were found at Velasquez' home: four U.S.-made LAW rocket launchers, three U.S.-made 5.56-mm M-16 automatic rifles with magazines and ammunition, terrorist training manuals, information on Armed Forces and Carabinero units for perpetrating future attacks, balaclavas, and items to disguise himself.

4. Florencio Velasquez has been involved in the regional activities of the FPMR executive board in Valparaiso, serving as a liaison agent with the national executive board of this terrorist organization in Santiago and carrying directives, money, and weapons. He formerly acted as the head of a terrorist cell that operated in Valparaiso, and his involvement in several attacks recently perpetrated in the area is being investigated.

5. Velasquez Negrete was arrested following an order to investigate violations of Law No 17,798 on the control of arms and explosives.

6. The office of the Valparaiso regional intendant hereby thanks the citizenry for the cooperation given to the security services, which contributed to the discovery of terrorists who are trying to prevent the community's normal development.

The communique is signed by the office of the 5th region intendant.

Colombia

Government Not To Immediately Extradite Ochoa

PA240118 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Nov 87

[Text] The Colombian Government today decided not to extradite drug trafficker Jorge Luis Ochoa to the United States until he serves his 20-month prison term for illegally importing 128 bulls from Spain.

Diomedes Sanchez Andrade, Cartagena's chief judge, canceled Ochoa's parole for not having complied with the condition of appearing before a judge every 2 weeks. Jorge Luis Ochoa is now being held at the Army's Rincon Quinonez Camp in Bogota. National Prison Director Guillermo Ferro will decide to which jail Ochoa will be sent. Ferro has acknowledged that the country does not have a maximum security prison.

Andean 'Condor' Satellite Sharing Approved

PA231553 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Nov 87 p 6a

[Text] Colombia will vote in favor of proceding with the "Condor" Andean Satellite and will share its upkeep with area countries.

President Virgilio Barco Vargas made this announcement yesterday, while answering questions during [ceremonies marking] 75 years of Caprecom [Caja de Prevision Social de Comunicaciones, Communications Working Social Welfare Fund] While announcing the government's position, President Barco said "At this moment Colombia cannot allow itself the luxury of owning its own satellite."

Upon learning the president's position, Communications Minister Fernando Cepeda Ulloa and Telecom [National Enterprise for Telecommunications] President Emilio Saravia Bravo, told *El Tiempo* that they would follow the president's decision and would act accordingly.

The Andean "Condor" satellite will be launched in 1991 by the French company "Arianespace." Colombia's place has been reserved for several years.

Venezuela and Colombia will be the greatest contributors, each paying 28 percent of the total cost. The rest will be paid by the remaining Andean countries with fees ranging between 12 and 18 percent.

Once the Andean satellite is in orbit, Colombia's communications both inside and outside the country, will improve substantially.

This will allow the Telecom national network to integrate all the satellite, rural and urban telephone services, which will allow greater development of communications. At the same time, the government will be able to provide better education programs to the people needing more cultural and technological advances.

Colombia's decision will be made official by Communications Minister Fernando Cepeda Ulloa and by Telecom President Emilio Saravia Bravo at a meeting of ministers to be held in Cartagena during the 1st week of December.

Paraguay

Stroessner Accepts Colorado Party Nomination

PY230300 Asuncion Cerro Cora Sistema Nacional Television in Spanish 2254 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Speech by President Alfredo Stroessner before a Colorado Party special convention held at Colorado Party headquarters in Asuncion—live]

[Excerpts] Honorable convention members: I have come to the honorable special convention of our powerful political organization, which was called to nominate and proclaim the presidential candidate for the 1988-1993 constitutional period, to nominate and proclaim candidates for senators and deputies of the National Congress, and to report on the election of members of the electoral boards.

Present here are the legitimate-representatives of the Colorado people, who have gathered in a climate of freedom to discuss and resolve very important party matters that are closely linked to the peace and progress of the Republic of Paraguay. [passage omitted]

Honorable convention members: I have thought a lot about the spontaneous desire of the Colorado people to proclaim my candidacy for a new constitutional period as president of the Republic.

These thrilling expressions of the decision of the people, made by delegates who have come from the farthest corners of the country, are added to the friendly voices of my comrades of the Chaco War and many other fellow citizens from different sectors of national activities who have also conveyed to me their hope that I will continue as head of the Republic.

In compliance with the desire of the Colorado people, in this democratic and free session, you, honorable convention members, have proclaimed my name as candidate of the Colorado Party for president of the Republic for the 1988- 1993 constitutional period. [applause]

At the invitation of the Colorado Party members, I now give you my answer: I am honored to accept this nomination [applause] because it is my duty to bow to the sovereign will of the people.

I have never given up my obligations. I do not assume responsibilities in order to fail. And if I accept this new presidential candidacy, it is because I am convinced that I will continue to receive the affection and cooperation of all party members and of those fellow countrymen who, although they are not Colorados, have faith in my administration, which is a good Paraguayan administration because it is a Colorado Party administration that is designed to give prestige, without showing weakness, to the glorious Paraguayan flag. [applause] [passage omitted]

One's rights end where the freedom of others begins. And no one has the right to affront peace, just as no one has the right to undermine national happiness.

We are the defenders of human rights because we defend the happiness of children; the security of those who work, of the farmers, of the workers; the hope of those who study; the treasure of mothers, which is the lives of their children; [applause] the force existing in the home. We protect order from the criminal gangs that have no God and no fatherland and only seek chaos, grief, and violence that debases and destroys everything.

We are the defenders of human rights because we respect the Constitution and the laws that protect men's dignity and create a society based on the principles of equality and democracy. We will not allow the plans of those who want to bring anarchy to the country to succeed. Those who think in this manner will never achieve their condemnable objectives because the great Colorado Party and the incorruptible Armed Forces of the nation, zealous guardians of the present and future of the Republic of Paraguay, will always be on guard with invincible courage.

In a world affected by crisis, commotion,social unrest, agitation, and bloody and cowardly terrorist aggression, our peace is an outstanding achievements.

Our peace is built upon the goodwill of the Colorado Party members and of those who are not Colorados but who also abide by the law and cooperate for the progress of the nation. [passage omitted]

To promote abstention or the casting of blank votes means to promote subversion, violence, and a totalitarian conspiracy. To oppose the Constitution means to oppose the people, who have drawn up the Constitution. [applause, chanting of slogans] To promote abstention means to be against the law, against the instrument through which the people express their will.

Our democracy, which is always improving and becoming increasingly efficient, will not be hindered by a few individuals who do not represent anyone and who have no support from the people.

The professionals of demagogy and deception will not deceive the public on what a democratic government should be. Democracy means to vote and to accept the results of the election. [applause]

Power must be in the hands of the majority, and the minority must help the government discharge its duties. That is democracy. [applause] To seek to ignore or distort the will of the majority is not an attitude of a democrat but of bad losers, of people who disloyally disregard the moral and legal rules of the government of the people, by the people, and for the people. [passage omitted]

The Colorado Party is strong and invincible because of its nationalist platform and the strong support that it enjoys. The morale and the spirit of the people who loyally wave the triumphant red flag with the white star that we inherited from our Colorado Party forebears will not be destroyed by a few deserters. The enthusiasm of the Colorado people will not be affected by those deserters, who have exchanged the honor of serving the Colorado Party for the morally shameful desertion to the enemies of peace and to those who have reneged on the glorious history of our political association. [applause] Those who have allied themselves with people who have murdered, tortured, or persecuted Colorado Party members at various times in our history cannot hope to be called Colorado Party members. Those who change their beliefs and join the traitors who attack the great works of the Colorado government—works of peace and progress that are reasons for legitimate pride for Colorado Party members, works that are in keeping with the principles we inherited from General Bernardino Caballero— cannot hope to be called Colorado Party members. The party flag, which the historical party leaders waved from the opposition, will never be put in the hands of traitors, undecided people, or those who are weak in their soul.

All the Colorados, whose inherited honor has no stain, whose dignity has not been impaired, and whose courage to defend the Paraguayan heritage has not decreased, will know how to defend, with moral courage, that flag, which has risen as a permanent tribute to the fatherland and to democracy. [passage omitted]

Honorable convention members:

On accepting the presidential nomination that the Colorado people have granted to me, I ask for God's protection for my efforts to build the unfading greatness of the Paraguayan Republic.

Laino Comments on Elections From Argentina

PY230133 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2125 GMT 21 Nov 87

[Text] Resistencia, Argentina, 21 Nov (EFE)—Domingo Laino, a leader of the Paraguayan Authentic Liberal Radical Party [PLRA], has stressed that "no member of my party is going to vote in the upcoming elections in my country."

The former Paraguayan congressman also stressed that "we are not going to be the clowns of the 1988 election circus that has been mounted by (President) Alfredo Stroessner."

In a news conference given in the Argentine city of Resistencia, Chaco Province, Laino said his party "is liberal, democratic, and progressive. It also believes in elections."

Laino, who lived in exile in Argentina for several years, added that "we should participate in the upcoming elections, but we will not do so because they will not be free or clean elections."

He insisted that "these elections really discredit the democratic postulates of the West, and this is why my party has decided to completely abstain."

On 20 November, Laino launched his book entitled International Society and the Authoritarian Paraguayan State [La Sociedad Internacional y el Estado Autoritario Paraguayo]. He says that "democracy is advancing in my country despite the inflexibility of the closed, oppressive system of the government of Stroessner," who has occupied the Presidency for the last 33 years.

The political leader stated that a path is being opened "that will lead to a pluralistic democracy in Paraguay. I do not say it will come very soon, but it will come in the future, yes."

When asked if he believes he will have problems returning to his country, Laino said that "dictatorships have no logic in their actions, and the uncertainty whether one is going to have problems is part of the oppressive system."

"I hope I do not have any problems, because there is a lot of international awareness regarding what the Paraguayan regime is really like," he added.

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